TESTED Apple MacBook, LG Music Flow P7, Samsung NX500, MyPhone Rio 2, BMW 420d Gran Coupe Luxury, HTC One M9

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Speed™

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Cover Jasmine Curtis Smith
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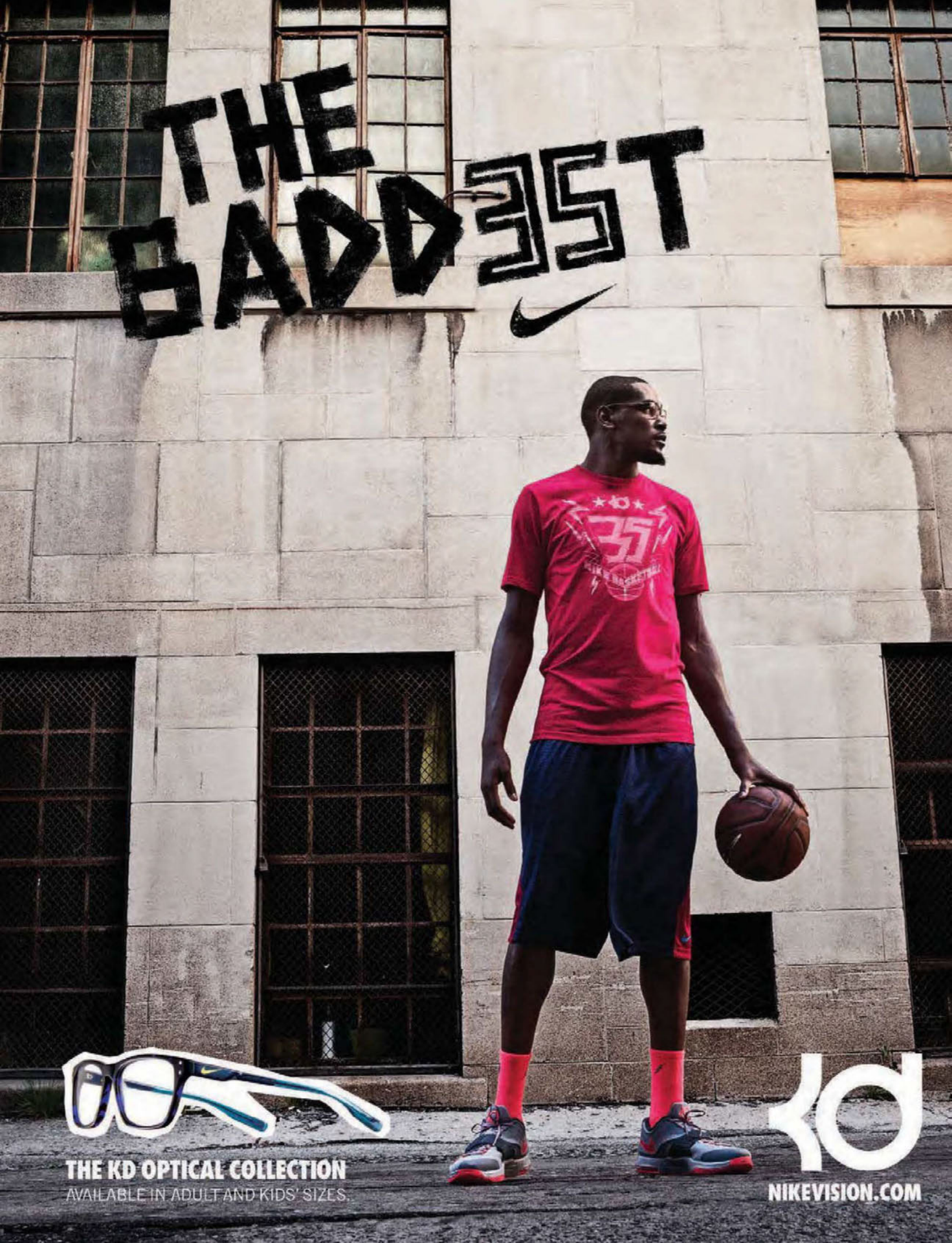
Styling Cath Sobrevega & Rachel Felicia of Qurator
Makeup John Pagaduan of Shu Uemura
Hair Raven Dizon of Jing Monis Salon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DIGICAMS AREN'T DEAD

My Panasonic Lumix LX5 has been sitting in its case for a while.

I can't even remember the last time I touched it, much less used it. These days, my camera of choice—as is probably yours—is my phone's built-in camera. It may not hold a candle to the picture quality that my LX5 produces, but it definitely beats my digicam when it comes to portability and connectivity. As the age-old photography adage goes, the best camera is the one you carry with you, and your phone's built-in snapper is it.

The smartphone may have left a long list of redundant gadgets in its wake—the standalone point-and-shoot camera included—but does that necessarily mean your PowerShots and Cyber-shots will be rendered obsolete soon? Are Instagram, SnapChat, and photo editing apps killing an art form? Is there a direct link between photography's crisis of meaning and digital image overload (as of 2014, KPCB's internet trends report states that internet users upload and share over 1.8 billion photos each day)?

The rise of mobile phone photography is causing a lot of scrambling and soul searching among digital camera manufacturers. It's shaking things up in the industry and challenging the outdated and the complacent to step up or get left behind. I'd like to think of it this way: smartphone photography isn't killing standalone cameras and photography in general. Instead, it's modernizing it and upping the game of the current players. You need only look at the fine shooters being launched left and right to know that things are looking up. There may be casualties—that's inevitable—but all in all, the future of photography is exciting. It's not dead; it's just evolving.

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Contributors

Jay Tablante is a frustrated illustrator. Hence he made up for it by taking pictures of super heroes instead. He bides his time by shooting fashion and advertising.

Sara Black has photographed countless models and high-profile celebrities for the country's top prestigious magazines, and has shot for numerous advertising clients. She has two books under her belt: *When I Look in the Mirror* (2009) and *We, Love* (2012).

Ron Cruz is a freelance everything, and is currently debating whether that is a good or a bad thing. With his substantial amount of free time, he likes to geek it up and play board, card, and online games, sometimes all at once. He enjoys eating pizza and looking at photos of cats on the internet.

Zoe Ezequiel is a traveler trapped in a writer's body. Her frail demeanor will deceive most, but she has once outrun a burglar and has battled (and defeated!) cancer. She continues to shoot in film to this day and will sneer at your iPhones openly.

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Inbox

We want to hear from you! Send in your thoughts and comments about *Speed* by dropping us a line or two at *editorial@speed-mag.com*.

ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING TECH

Hi, *Speed*!

First of all, happy 12th anniversary to your team! I'm a new follower of your magazine and am quite entertained with the diverse topics your magazine features. I was a biology major in college, and it's cool to find a magazine that features scientific and technological advancements, add to that the latest gadgets and a couple of practical lifestyle tips and features. I particularly loved the entertaining lists you featured in your May Anniversary Issue. Those coffee shops, restaurants, and galleries could be future hangout spots where I can invite my friends. Wishing the best for your magazine!

Edwin Anadon

Why, thank you for your feedback, Edwin! We do try to come up with a diverse set of topics that we know will pique the interest of our readers. That is why we feature not only the usual gadgets, but anything and everything high-tech that enhance our everyday lives—just like this pair of ***The North Face Ultra Trail II*** *(P6,990) we're giving you. These shoes are brimming with tech to keep you and your feet protected on any terrain.*

MARIAN FAN

Hi, *Speed*!

Thanks for the shirt included in your loot bag at [the magazine signing] at Powerbooks. Appreciate to see all the photos of the fans while Marian was signing the magazine, especially mine. Thanks again.

Congratulations on your 12th anniversary! More years to come.

Gene Villamer

BEST BUY

Dear *Speed* team,

I always look forward to reading two particular issues of your magazine every year: the May Anniversary Issue and the December issue. Why? They're two of the thickest you come up with and it makes me feel *na sobrang sulit 'yung* P150 *ko. Nakakabusog talaga basahin*. Your 12th anniversary issue with Ms. Marian Rivera on the cover is again a good buy. Or should I say a best buy? Congratulations, *Speed*! Keep it up!

Jon Erick

Speed feed

Hey, *Speed* readers. Thanks for showing your love for *Speed*'s May 2015 cover!

Great choice for your 12th anniversary issue cover #MarianRivera #thequeengotspeed
- Chaldean Hernandez

Congratulations, *Speed*, on your 12th anniversary. More blessings and success for the next 12 years.
- Dada Torres Tiongco

Thank you for letting us meet Marian via the signing! Happy 12th, *Speed*!
- Anewor Medrano

I love this!
- James A Macapugas

Happy Anniversary! More power! :)
- Ferds Bondoy

@therealmarian: Thank you *Speed* magazine for choosing me as your anniversary cover... A black and white special edition! Wow fierce! ***@speedmagazine*** #MAY

@qtcielo: Can't wait to get my copy...

@angelmaria_07: Super ganda talaga ni Yan. Thank you ***@speedmagazine***.

@chubbylea_30: Pretty. May copy ako lahat ng *Speed* magazine mo Queen.

@kapampanganako: A must-have!

@clariviedomanais: Gorgeous ***@therealmarian***

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M³

MICRO COMPUTING OF THE RICE SIZE

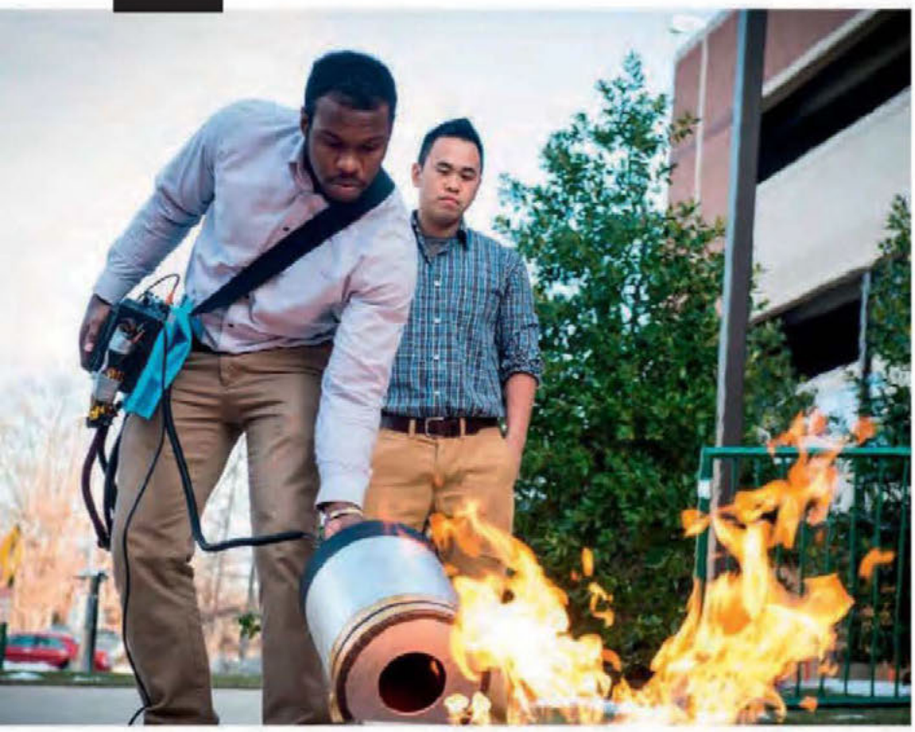
Words **CANDY VILLANUEVA-LYKES**

LAPTOP MANUFACTURERS ALL CLAIM TO HAVE THE THINNEST, LIGHTEST, SEXIEST MACHINES. APPARENTLY, NONE OF THEM HAVE HEARD OF THE MICHIGAN MICRO MOTE (M³). This tiny computer uses the "micro" word literally, measuring at one millimeter cubed or about the size of a grain. Now this should silence the computer giants.

In this fast-paced world, portability is key, and researchers at the University of Michigan's computer science department is taking this to heart. As the Internet of Things (IoT) gets bigger, we are looking at a future where almost everything has intelligence. Even ordinary objects like doorknobs, appliances, and light fixtures can have integrated circuits in them to allow them to talk to each other over a network.

With this in mind, the developers are designing the micro-sized computer to be small enough to be integrated into almost any object. Currently, the M³ doesn't function like your laptop (yet), but it is already powerful enough to take pictures, measure temperature, and register pressure readings. Since it doesn't have a keyboard and a screen, the Micro Mote is charged via light and manipulated through radio frequencies.

The M³ is so minuscule that it can even be injected into the body to perform ECGs and other diagnostic tests. Very soon, the Micro Mote will be used in a variety of applications in the medical and industrial field. And maybe in the near future, you'll be able to replace your clunky MacBook Air with a keychain computer.



Sound waves
SAVE BURNING BACON

Words **CANDY VILLANUEVA-LYKES**

GOOD NEWS FOR FIREFIGHTERS AND BACON LOVERS: they can now look forward to fire dancing and extinguishing flames through the beat of the bass. Engineering students from Fairfax Virginia have discovered that the thump-thump of the bass can actually put out a fire.

Viet Tran and Seth Robertson's sound extinguisher replaces the compressed air tank containing chemicals with a loudspeaker the size of a subwoofer. The extinguisher drums out sound waves that put out the fire. But don't be thinking you can rely on Snoop Dogg to save your burning bacon. The concept uses low hum or low frequency sounds that blow out flames. That's because sound waves are basically blasts of air.

And if you're still thinking bacon, the inventors are in line with you, hoping to test the concept in kitchens for grease fires, because it's a no-mess extinguisher. Conventional extinguishers usually leave chemical residue all over the place, while water hoses can ruin objects just as bad as fire. The sound wave fire fighter, however, leaves no traces in its wake. Eventually, the idea can be deployed in space, because sound waves can be directed without gravity.

SELFIE to power smartphones

CALLING ALL SELFIE ADDICTS! VERY SOON, YOUR SELFIE-A-DAY VITAMIN WILL NOT ONLY BOOST YOUR EGO, IT WILL ALSO POWER YOUR SMARTPHONES. EVERY TIME YOU SNAP A SELF-PORTRAIT, YOUR PHONE'S CAMERA SENSOR WILL CONVERT LIGHT INTO POWER.

A team from Cornell University is currently working on a board of 30 x 40 array of photodiodes that can collect voltage when light falls on the cells. The power is then stored in a supercapacitor instead of being allowed to flow out to create an image. When not in use, the photodiodes in the device can be flipped into energy-harvesting mode as long as there's sufficient light. Right now, the technology might not be enough to keep your phone running endlessly, but it will come in handy when you're running low on juice.

The developers created the device using off-the-shelf materials but are looking at putting together a miniature version that can be used to power up mobile devices. Thanks to geniuses at Cornell, now you can say that even though selfies are a waste of time, at least, they're not a waste of energy!

CHEAP, SAFE, FLEXIBLE POWER

THE KEY TO SURVIVING IN A DIGITAL WORLD? NEVER RUNNING OUT OF BATTERY. Your power is only as good as your battery, which is why we have all sorts of power-saving solutions to keep us running past the Energizer Bunny. Researchers from Stanford University are offering another solution: aluminum-ion. This battery is inexpensive, safe, flexible, charges fast, and has a long cycle life—everything you dream that a battery should have.

According to the researchers, aluminum is a better solution over lithium cells because it charges quickly and lasts longer. They've developed a bendable battery that's also safer, because it is not as volatile and does not catch fire when perforated. And because it's thin and flexible, the battery can be used in wearable technology.

The researchers saw promising results in using graphite for the cell's cathode and salt liquid for its ionic liquid electrolyte. So far, tests show that the battery can withstand over 7,500 charging cycles without loss of capacity—a huge number compared with the 100 cycles that other aluminum batteries usually tolerate before expiring.

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Address

A GLOBAL SUZUKI SCOOTER

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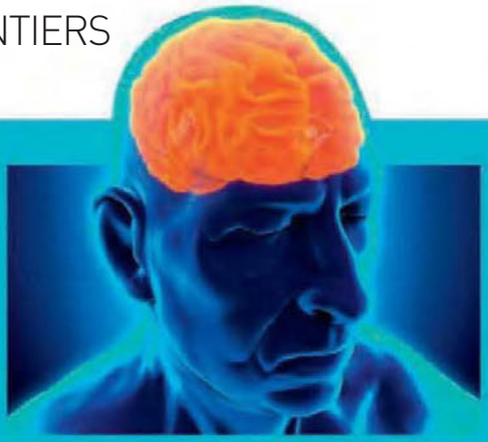
OF MICE AND MEMORY



A NON-INVASIVE ULTRASOUND TECHNOLOGY MAY JUST BE THE SOLUTION TO BATTLE ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE. Researchers from University of Queensland in Australia experimented with scanning ultrasound (SUS) to remove beta-amyloid buildup plaques from the brains of Alzheimer's mouse models.

The experiment revealed a significant decrease in the brain plaque of subjects. In fact, about 75 percent of the animals showed that the plaque buildup had almost been completely eliminated with no reported brain damage. The mice also exhibited better performance in mazes, places of avoidance, and object recognition after the treatment.

"The ultrasound waves oscillate tremendously quickly, activating microglial cells that digest and remove the amyloid plaques that destroy brain synapses," explains study author Prof. Jürgen Götz.

The researchers will next figure out if the treatment is feasible and safe for humans.

Smart bandage
KISSES BOOBOO AWAY

PRETTY SOON, YOUR BAND AID CAN DO MORE THAN JUST COVER UP YOUR WOUND. A team from Harvard, Purdue, and Tufts universities, and Brigham and Women's Hospital is working on a smart bandage that can sense how well the wound is healing and releases medication like antibiotics or anti-inflammatory drugs.

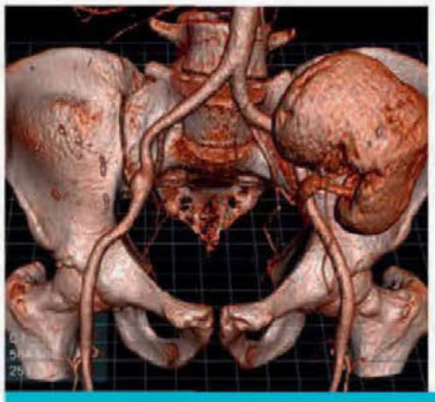
The new technology called flexible bioelectronics can report oxygen levels and temperature, and even make adjustments as needed. The smart bandage can also send vital information to medical practitioners off site.

Using advancements in sensors, biomaterials, microelectronics, microsystems technology, and tissue engineering, the researchers are hoping to create a miracle bandage for wounds that need ongoing care like burns, diabetic ulcers, and bed sores. With this technology, nurses will no longer need to unwrap the wound to inspect it, reducing the possibilities of infection.

SUPERMAN'S X-RAY VISION FOR DOCTORS

ECHOPIXEL, A VENTURE-BACKED COMPANY, IS LOOKING TO REPLICATE SUPERMAN'S X-RAY EYES FOR DOCTORS. The idea is to allow medical specialists to see a 3D view of your insides using a real-time interactive virtual reality system. Called True 3D (t3D), the diagnostics and surgical planning tool sets itself apart from other 3D rendering technologies by enabling users to see and interact with organs in open 3D space rather than just a 2D monitor.

Using a stylus, the medical practitioner can virtually poke around your insides as if you were cut open. t3D gives your doctor a more enriched anatomical understanding, heightened visual perception, and greater tolerance to image noise. Using the stylus, the specialist can interactively dissect malformations for a more detailed evaluation. t3D, which has received US Food and Drug Administration 510(k) clearance, promises a more enhanced picture of the body's anatomy through an accurate depiction of depth information.



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Words CANDY VILLANUEVA-LYKES

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Get Ready for an
EXHILARATING Ride

FUTURE-FORWARD kitchen

Words **CARMELA MARAAN FERNANDO**

THE KITCHEN IS CONSIDERED THE HEART OF THE HOME BECAUSE IT'S A SOURCE OF NOURISHMENT, CREATIVITY, BONDING, AND COMFORT, WHETHER WE LIVE ALONE OR WITH OUR FAMILY.

Scandinavian company IKEA, in collaboration with design firm IDEO London, seeks to take that comfort several notches up by increasing efficiency, thanks to the advanced designs in Concept Kitchen 2025. These futuristic kitchen concepts are envisioned by over 50 students from Sweden and the Netherlands.

Concept Kitchen 2025, which opened last April in Milan, explores the evolution of our relationship with food to produce a healthier and more sustainable lifestyle. Here are some of the prototypes.

Monkey Kitchen is a movable mini kitchen that combines a refrigerator, cooking element, and cleaning system for those who don't have time or like to cook.

To prepare your meal, pour in food and the cooker will select a program via the RFID chip in the food package. All you need to do is push the button to start cooking. The stove will also automatically turn off to indicate that cooking is done.

Hate washing the dishes? With Monkey Kitchen, you just wash off your plate with water and it becomes instantly clean.

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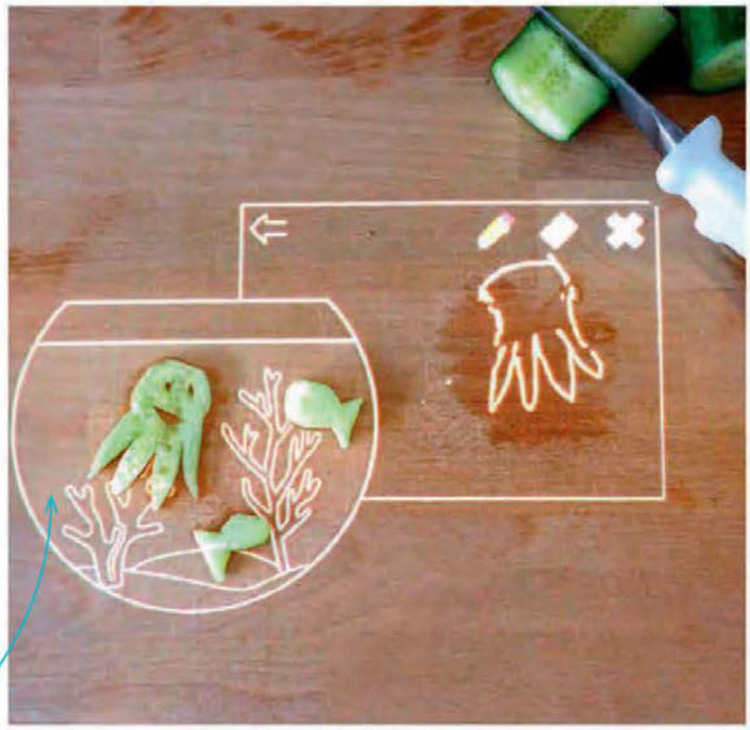
Now, how about a pop-up kitchen that will foster bonding among members of a community? There's **CommuniKitchen** for that. It features a "green table" with fresh produce, and a shop from which you can buy ingredients. There's also a dishwasher and storage area, a cart where you can prepare food, a cooking island complete with stoves and sinks, and an eating area where friends and neighbors can eat together. To use this open community kitchen, you need to pay a small fee, which is handled via an account in the CommuniKitchen network.

Ikea Fam is a hologram-based platform that allows remote users to participate in group cooking sessions and classes from the comforts of their own home. The unit comes with scales and thermometers so that you can follow the instructions regarding ingredient measurement and temperature control. Cameras show you exactly what is being cooked and help you follow every single step.

Want to get your children to participate in the cooking process? **Creative Cook** encourages the little ones to help in the kitchen through a combination of actual kitchen and augmented reality.

There are two modes to accommodate the two different types of behavior. In active mode, the system will dictate a recipe and specify what kitchen tools—knife, peeler, whisk—to use for specific tasks. The passive mode, on the other hand, lets kids select both the ingredient and tool they want to use.



GENERATION REGENERATION

Words ANTONIO JOSE GALAURAN

ONLY TIME CAN HEAL A BROKEN HEART, BUT SOME THINGS NEED FIXING ASAP. SCIENCE IS NOW DELVING INTO THE STUDY OF 'SELF-HEALING' BECAUSE THERE ARE INSTANCES WHEN HEALING COULD SPELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH.

Note that we are talking about biomimicry, or the science that emulates nature's patterns and strategies to achieve sustainable solutions such as the science of self-healing materials to produce functional products used by humans.

A way to apply biomimicry to aircraft materials—constructing 'self-healing' planes that utilize high-tech carbon fiber composite materials—was recently discovered by researchers from RMIT in Melbourne. Embedded in the material are micro-sized capsules and pellets of polymer. In case of a crack, these substances melt and flood the fissure with resin, triggering a repair process.

The study proves to be vital as most aircraft cracks occur inside the sheeting, often not visible from the surface of the plane. If this technology becomes successful, imagine the millions of lives it could save when used in commercial flights. Next time you fly, you no longer have reason to worry!

CHAMELEON-INSPIRED style

www.123rf.com/profile_skif55

EVER DREAMED ABOUT CHANGING YOUR CAR COLOR WITHOUT PAYING FOR A NEW PAINT JOB? OR TRANSFORMING YOUR OOTD WITHOUT ACTUALLY CHANGING CLOTHES? YOUR DREAM CAN NOW BECOME A REALITY.

Scientists have recently discovered how to mimic the color-changing ability of chameleons, one of the few creatures with the ability to morph its skin color to match its surroundings. They are looking to integrate this technology into several products used by humans day-to-day, from clothes down to cars.

The chameleon's color-changing ability is made possible by nanocrystals embedded in its skin cells. These tiny crystals reflect light at different wavelengths and produce optical effects depending on the spacing. The result: when a chameleon relaxes its skin, we see it take on one color, but upon stretching its skin, its color varies.

The same principle applies in designing the actual material. However, it is done by etching intricate ridges smaller than the wavelength of light on a very thin silicon film a thousand times thinner than a hair strand.

The technology has yet to reach commercial market, but the mere idea certainly brings smiles to faces of fashionistas, not to mention getaway burglars and criminals.

MY CAR? The iCar!

RUMOR HAS IT THAT APPLE PLANS TO VENTURE INTO THE CAR INDUSTRY, WITH A POTENTIAL RELEASE OF AN ELECTRIC CAR BY 2020. HOW TRUE IT IS, HOWEVER, WE CAN ONLY SPECULATE, AS THE COMPANY HAS YET TO OFFICIALLY COMMENT ON THE MATTER.

But in response to the craze, Carwow recently created a mock-up concept to please eyes that can no longer stand a half decade's wait. The mock-up iCar features a no-grille look, an iPhone-white finish, and comes with body and wheels in iPhone colors silver, gold, or grey.

Enter this conceptual iCar in style by simply swiping a home button on your door. Its interior, meanwhile provides a perfect combo for your Apple devices—an iPhone dock at the center console, a dashboard display, and a right-hand screen allowing video viewing experience for passengers.

This electric car will attempt to go green and efficient, but will certainly not smear Apple's cred in terms of performance—an engine capable of running from 120 to 250hp, has 400Nm torque, and comes with a battery mileage of up to 310 miles before requiring a recharge.

Should Apple push through with this giant leap, it certainly will create huge ripples in the motoring industry.

Introducing the all-new

MITSUBISHI STRADA

It's Your Sport Truck

Five generations strong, backed by a rally-proven heritage and the Mitsubishi Strada still can't be stopped. Balancing the finesse of a sedan with the awesome capabilities of a truck, the Mitsubishi Strada is as capable as it is comfortable. Be it in the city or far off the beaten path, you will always get performance without compromise.

• Deeper and Larger Cargo Bed

• Stylish Rear Bumper

Features of the GLS Sport V 4x4 A/T

Push Start/Stop button

Super Select 4WD II - Electronic Dial Selector

• Magnesium Alloy Paddle Shifters
• Cruise Control

Reliable 2.5L Common Rail Direct Injection Diesel engine with VGT.

Car-like comfort like no other with class-leading legroom, a wider cabin, a new seat design, and a host of other amenities.

• Multimedia Entertainment System with GPS Navigation and Tire Pressure Monitoring System (Dealer Option)
• Dual Zone Auto Climate Control System

Color and specs may vary from actual unit.

MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Drive@earth

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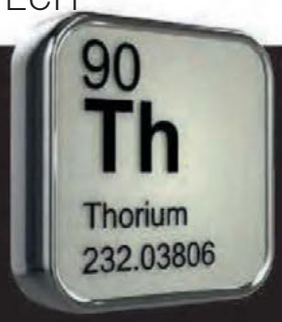


FEARS OF NUCLEAR MELTDOWN AND HARMFUL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF NUCLEAR WASTE PRODUCTS PROMPTED LONG-STANDING DEBATES AS TO WHETHER OR NOT NUCLEAR POWER ENERGY IS THE SOLUTION TO SHORTAGES IN THE POWER INDUSTRY.

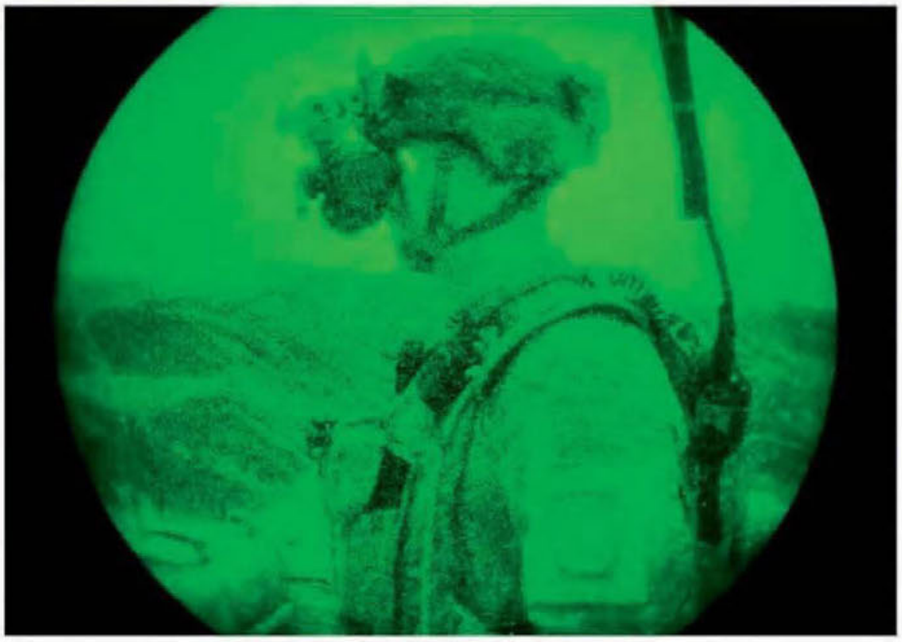
But a not-so-new concept returns to the forefront of talks on greener, safer alternative energy: thorium power.

Talks about thorium's potential started way back during the Cold War. But thorium energy wasn't prioritized then, because the U.S. needed large energy supplies that will enable them to create weapons such as nuclear bombs. Nuclear plants fit this role, leaving the less-menacing thorium in the backseat.

Fast forward years later, the interest in thorium power finally resumes, with several countries now engaging in research and talks on constructing their own prototype.

How it works: Heat generated from the fission of uranium can generate electricity. This heat is produced by exposing the isotope of thorium (Th-232) to a beam of neutrons so it can be converted into an isotope of uranium (U-233).

Thorium plants are relatively safe to maintain. In case of an accident, maintenance personnel can simply halt conversion of Th-232 to U-233 or throw in neutron-absorbing rods into the reactor core. Safety features allow automatic shutdown of the reactor in case of extremely high temperatures.



FIRE IN THE HOLE!

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT IT IS LIKE TO HAVE AUTOMATIC NIGHT VISION GOGGLES? NO, YOU CAN'T JUST PRESS THE N SHORTCUT KEY WHILE PLAYING *COUNTER-STRIKE*. IT COULD GET MORE BIONIC THAN THAT.

A group of biohackers had the guts to try night vision, but not through wearing goggles. Instead, they had chemicals injected into their eyeballs. For the sake of, uh, science.

Gabriel Licina, along with the group tagged Science for the Masses, conducted the experiment with the belief that this discovery can help search-and-rescue teams, soldiers, or even ordinary people with vision problems.

Licina volunteered to be injected with the liquid Chlorin e6 (or Ce6), which is found in deep sea fishes that possess light-amplifying properties. He described the sensation as similar to placing eye drops, claiming that the procedure did not induce much pain.

The group later simulated Licina's night vision eyes by bringing him to a dark field an hour after getting injected. The result? He had clear vision up to 50 meters and was able to identify distant figures at a whopping 100 percent accuracy. After several hours, however, the night vision eventually faded. But certainly, the memory and sensation of having night vision eyes to prowl into the night will linger in retrospect.

GENERATING the degenerate

FEAR NOT FOR YOUR SAFETY; CRIMINALS HAVE MORE REASON TO CHANGE THEIR WAYS.

Faces can now be recognized and drawn even in the absence of a witness, and that makes crime fighting a tad easier.

Here to unmask criminals who leave a stain of information is DNA phenotyping, a technology that enables face generation out of a DNA sample (e.g., a drop of blood). This is a groundbreaking advancement in forensics and criminal investigation as traditional forms of suspect identification in criminal cases rely heavily on the witness' or the victim's account and the artist's skill to draw an accurate sketch of the suspect's face.

DNA phenotyping, on the other hand, can easily generate a face even in the absence of a witness or a CCTV camera during the incident. Facial rendering attempts to generate the closest detail it can get to match the eye, hair, and skin color, as well as the tooth shape, skin aberrations (e.g., freckles), and even overall face shape—all based on a DNA sample.

DNA phenotyping remains in its early stages subject to further enhancement before it can draw 100 percent accurate and recognizable faces. But some startup companies in the U.S. are already trying out DNA-based sketches to assist police departments.

www.123rf.com/profile_kjpargeter | www.123rf.com/profile_3dalia

Words **ANTONIO JOSE GALAURAN**

SUN'S UP; WHEELS OUT!

Words **ANTONIO JOSE GALAURAN**

BIKES ARE AMONG THE CHEAPEST AND MOST ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY MODES OF TRANSPORTATION EVER INVENTED. But not everyone likes to break a sweat on two wheels. Enter the electric Solar Bike designed by Jesper Frausig for the less fit who still want a body-battering ride with the wind.

The Solar Bike is a solar-powered electric bike capable of harnessing power from sunlight and transforming it into usable battery for the bicycle's electric motor. This electric bike allows you to pedal but comes equipped with an electric motor, which is handy for riders who suddenly experience fatigue during a long ride.

This innovative two-wheeler sports a futuristic appeal. A sleek frame, solid black wheels for the solar-paneled skins, and a battery container straddled in the front triangle give it a geeky space-age look fused with a sporty angst.

Don't hold back on the pedal as the Solar Bike can propel you between 25 and 50kph. If you're running on battery, the bicycle's power can go on for an average of 2 to 25km a day, depending on the sun's visibility, and a maximum battery enough to run up to 70km.

With solar-powered bikes, healthier and greener forms of transportation become closer to the masses. Instead of dreaming of air-conditioned top-of-the-line four-wheelers that spew black smoke, the innovation of solar-powered bicycles can contribute to the popularity of biking as a lifestyle.

Hey, not only will you reap health benefits, but maybe you'll start inviting more people to a vigorous and green lifestyle—not to mention bidding our outrageous metro traffic goodbye.

A BREATH OF FRESH CITY AIR

www.123rf.com/profile_cherezoff

AS IF HEAVY TRAFFIC AND AN INEFFICIENT PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM AREN'T ENOUGH TO MAKE YOUR DAILY COMMUTE A LIVING HELL, THERE'S ALSO POLLUTION TO ADD TO THE DISTRESSING EQUATION.

But desperation fuels the imagination and necessity is the mother of invention, which is why Hong Kong property developer Sino Group and London-based engineering firm Arup developed an outdoor purifier that reduces air pollution by 40 percent per hour. The City Air Purification System is a six square-meter system that removes 30 to 40 percent of PM 10 to PM 2.5 particulates from the air.

The device sucks up air near ground level through a vent at the bottom and then removes the pollutants as the air passes through the filtration bag inside. Clean air comes via the louvers at the top, forming an air curtain that prevents particulates from entering the structure.

Sensors are also fitted on the structure to collect real time data on the street's air quality. The developers plan to improve the system by harnessing alternative energy—solar or piezoelectricity—for power and turning it into a mist cooling system during summer months.

The City Air Purification System was originally intended for the streets of Hong Kong. However, China already adapted the technology and will be installing units at the Tsinghua University in Beijing soon. It would be good if other countries, including the Philippines, follow suit. After all, we badly need the benefits of clean air in our gritty, heavily polluted roads.

BUILDING [GREEN] BRIDGES

IN BARCELONA, SPAIN, AN OLD BRIDGE CALLED THE SARAJEVO BRIDGE—A.K.A. *PONT DE SARAJEVO*—IS SET FOR A TOTAL MAKEOVER THAT WILL TURN IT TO AN ENVIRONMENT- AND PEDESTRIAN-FRIENDLY OVERPASS.

Motorists coming into the city will be welcomed by a splash of green that is the bridge itself. Lush vegetation and pergolas covered with vines will decorate the whole structure, providing shade to pedestrians and creating an urban space where area residents can enjoy hanging out.

The most notable addition to the Sarajevo Bridge will be the photocatalytic concrete—a self-cleaning material that, once hit by sunlight, neutralizes pollutants in the air by absorbing nitrogen oxides and converting them into benign substances such as oxygen and water. The rain washes away the pollution from the concrete, so there will be no need for harmful chemicals to clean the bridge. This smog-absorbing concrete will be coated on the structure, keeping the bridge and the area around it cleaner.

There are also plans to install solar panels and phosphorescent material. The on-site solar array will generate energy for the bridge's LED lighting, while the phosphorescent matter will give it a faint green glow when the sun goes down.

This project is the work of urban architecture firm BCQ and has been backed by the local government. And while no start or completion date has been set yet, this redevelopment is something everyone should consider doing to the old bridges in their own localities.

Words **PAT CALICA**

TREAT WASTEWATER, CREATE ENERGY

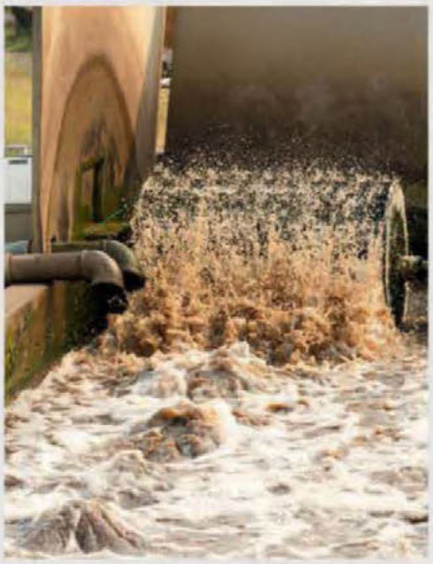
OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS ARE AMONG THE MAJOR SOURCES OF WATER POLLUTION WORLDWIDE. IN THE UNITED STATES ALONE, PLANTATIONS PRODUCE ABOUT 21B BARRELS OF WASTEWATER ANNUALLY. What's worse, traditional means of wastewater treatment are difficult and expensive due to the saltiness of the water and the organic contaminants in it.

A new technique developed by engineers at the University of Colorado Boulder makes the process of removing both salt and organic contaminants from wastewater—and water treatment in general—simpler.

The new technology, called microbial capacitive desalination, uses a battery powered by—yes, you guessed it—microbes to generate electric current utilized for desalination. Much cheaper than using chemicals to produce electricity, this approach takes advantage of the fact that the contaminants in the wastewater contain energy-rich hydrocarbons, the same compounds found in oil and natural gas.

During the treatment process, the microbes eat the hydrocarbons and release their embedded energy. The energy then creates a positively charged electrode on one side of the cell and a negatively charged one on the other, essentially setting up a battery. The salt in the water dissolves into negative- and positive-charged ions, making them easy to attract and adhere onto high-surface area electrodes.

Not only does the technology remove salt and organic contaminants from the waste water, it also produces additional energy, which can be used to run on-site equipment. This makes the whole process simpler, cheaper, and sustainable.



PACKING PEANUTS FOR BETTER BATTERIES

PACKING PEANUTS HELP IN THE SAFE SHIPMENT OF FRAGILE OBJECTS, BUT ONCE YOU'VE OPENED THE PACKAGE, THESE PESKY LITTLE NUBS WILL BE LEFT AS FLOOR CLUTTERS, TEMPORARY PLAYTHING FOR CHILDREN, AND ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENT NUISANCE.

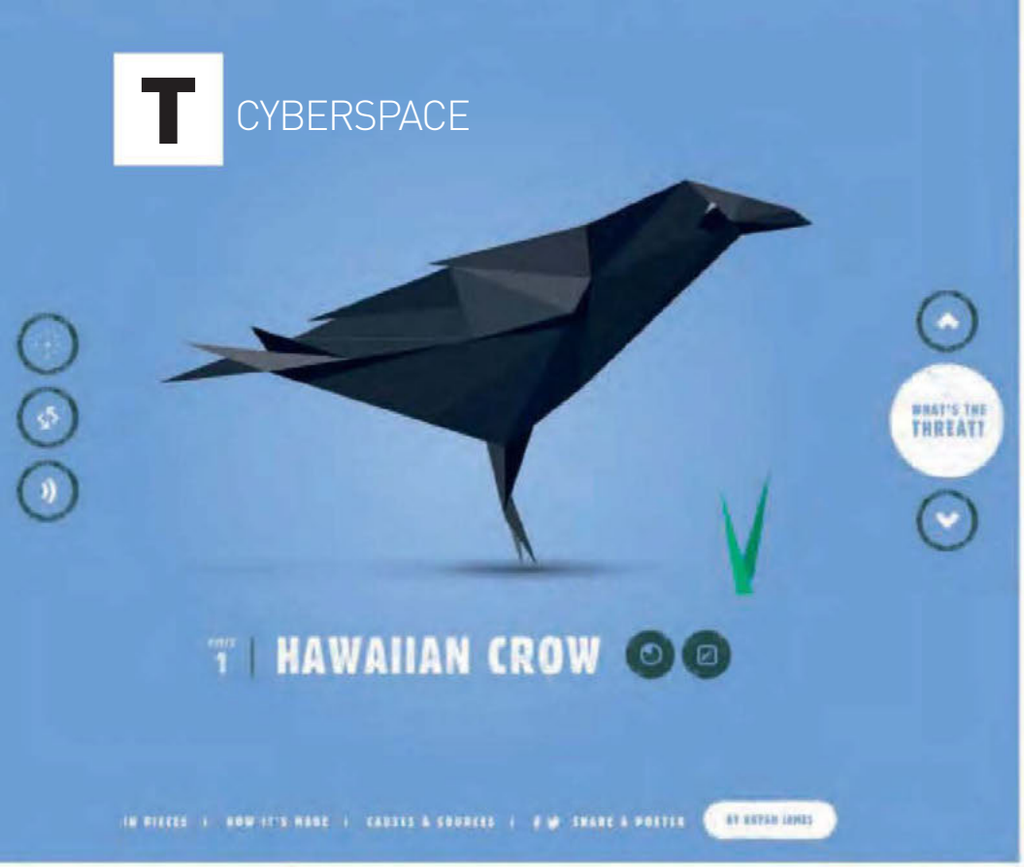
That may soon change as scientists from Purdue University found a new use for these puffy particles: as raw material for a lithium-ion battery anode. The team discovered that packing peanuts can be used to create a new type of anode made of carbon—and that these plastic foams do it better than graphite ones.

Packing peanuts are made to be lightweight and porous, and they retain the spongy, bead-like frothy structure even when broken down into tiny microsheets that are just a micrometer thick or about 50 times thinner than a strand of human hair. These qualities allow them to be good for moving and storing energy inside the battery.

So how does this packaging material turn into a battery anode material? The foam peanuts are heated to around 700°C for a couple of hours under inert atmosphere, in the presence or absence of a transition metal-salt catalyst. Then, depending on the peanut material and approach taken, the process produces either carbon nanoparticles or carbon microsheets that have more cavities to hold charge, making them better at storing and moving energy.

Words **PAT CALICA**

www.123rf.com/profile_marquardt21 | www.123rf.com/profile_toa55profile_3dalia



Piece by piece

HOW DO YOU DRAW PEOPLE'S ATTENTION TO ISSUES SUCH AS EXPLOITED HABITATS AND ENDANGERED SPECIES? DESIGNER BRYAN JAMES DOES IT BY CREATING A BEAUTIFUL WEBSITE CALLED IN PIECES (*species-in-pieces.com*).

This interactive online exhibition features 30 animals facing extinction—including the Somali ostrich, Iberian lynx, and Brazilian armadillo—using morphing polygons created with good old CSS.

Scroll on your mouse or use the fixed navigation on the right side of the page to see the animals; the pieces collapse and re-organize themselves into animal representations. There are also tools that direct you to interactive graphs showing the animals' current and/or past status.

Take the virtual journey to the world of these endangered species, and see what you can do to help (there's a poster available for $32; all profits go to the Evolutionarily Distinct & Globally Endangered initiative). Or you can download high-res wallpapers of these animals for free to remind you that you need to show more concern for the Earth.

WEIRD MAN

WE'VE ALL BEEN TO THE WEIRD PART OF THE INTERNET AT LEAST ONCE IN OUR CYBERLIFE—FROM THE FUNNIEST PHOTOS AT EBAUM'S WORLD TO THE WEIRDEST VIDEOS ON YOUTUBE. BUT A NEW WEBSITE—*adultswim.com/etcetera/very-man/*—TAKES THE CAKE.

Veryman is an experimental avatar website that gives you the chance to customize your very own funny GIF. It's currently being enhanced and developed, with more features and stability being added, but it still provides hours of laughter.

The website starts you off with a man in a pink suit floating in a transparent room. You can customize this man's features—from what he wears to how he acts, and even the size and shape of his physical appearance. Choose to randomize your Veryman or tweak the options. Once you're pleased with the outcome, hit the "Make 'em GIF" button and spread your Veryman to the far reaches of your social network!

Break 'em out

EVER THOUGHT ABOUT STARTING YOUR OWN *WALKING DEAD* SCENARIO AND FINDING THE BEST STATE TO START YOUR VERY OWN ZOMBIE EPIDEMIC?

ZombieTown USA (*mattbierbaum.github.io/zombies-usa/*) lets you do just that. In this GitHub-hosted site, you can create and control your own zombie spree, so you know how the living dead walk and bite, and how fast humans respond to the situation in order to contain them (or not). Simply click anywhere on the map to place a zombie and watch chaos unfold before your eyes. Once you've conquered the world (or in this case, just the U.S.) with your zombies, simply hit the reset button and try a different approach.

To make it look realistic, Cornell University grad students Alexander Alemi and Matthew Bierbaum built the map using the most recent census data.

Words **JOHN SOSMEÑA**

LIFE IS A BEAUTIFUL SPORT LACOSTE

96.3 EASY ROCK

JUST THE RITE ROCK

CLIMBS TO 2nd

Source: Nielsen Media Vehicle Coincidental Study (Dec 2014)
Base: Among PUV Drivers who listen to FM Radio

Rank	Station ID	Call Sign	Reach	Audience Share
1	LOVE RADIO	DZMB 90.7	167	23%
2	EASY ROCK	DWRK 96.3	134	19%
3	YES FM	DWYS 101.1	107	15%
4	WIN RADIO	DWKY 91.5	68	9%
5	NEWS FM	DWFM 92.3	52	7%
6	MOR	DWRR 101.9	34	5%

Source: Nielsen Media Vehicle Coincidental Study (Dec 2014)
Base: Among Private Car Owners who listen to FM Radio

Rank	Station ID	Call Sign	Reach	Audience Share
1	LOVE RADIO	DZMB 90.7	98	20%
2	EASY ROCK	DWRK 96.3	71	15%
3	MOR	DWRR 101.9	49	10%
4	YES FM	DWYS 101.1	41	9%
5	NEWS FM	DWFM 92.3	32	7%
6	WIN RADIO	DWKY 91.5	30	6%

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REWIND AND ERASE

FREE

RakEM

Platforms: Android, iOS

Words **CARMELA MARAAN FERNANDO**

EVER SENT AN ANGRY TEXT TO YOUR BELOVED, AN ACCIDENTAL NAUGHTY MESSAGE TO YOUR BOSS, OR A HALF-NAKED SELFIE TO JEFF FROM ACCOUNTING ONLY TO REGRET IT A SPLIT SECOND LATER?

Fret not. A new free app called RakEM by New York-based company Raketu Communications now allows you to delete your embarrassing and incriminating texts from your and your recipient's smartphone, so you can save face faster than it takes to type an apology.

Even 'private' messaging apps that claim to protect shared content between you and your recipient can still be breached because of open-ended data transmission. Not so with RakEM, which ensures a high level of security thanks to its unique, self-mutating algorithms that provide strict privacy through end-to-end encryption.

Greg Parker, Raketu president and CEO, assures that RakEM will provide users strict privacy for instant messaging, file, image, and location sharing, and voice and video calls. "With security breaches making headlines almost daily, people want assurance that their communications are private and protected," he said. "And that, should they have second thoughts about something they sent, they can delete with confidence from devices. Raketu's technology makes this possible."

The company statement also asserts, "RakEM ensures the utmost privacy for data as it is transferred from device-to-device directly, without the use of servers." This means your messages are exchanged directly between you and your recipient, without having to go through a third-party server, where your information is most at risk of data mining, hacking, and theft.

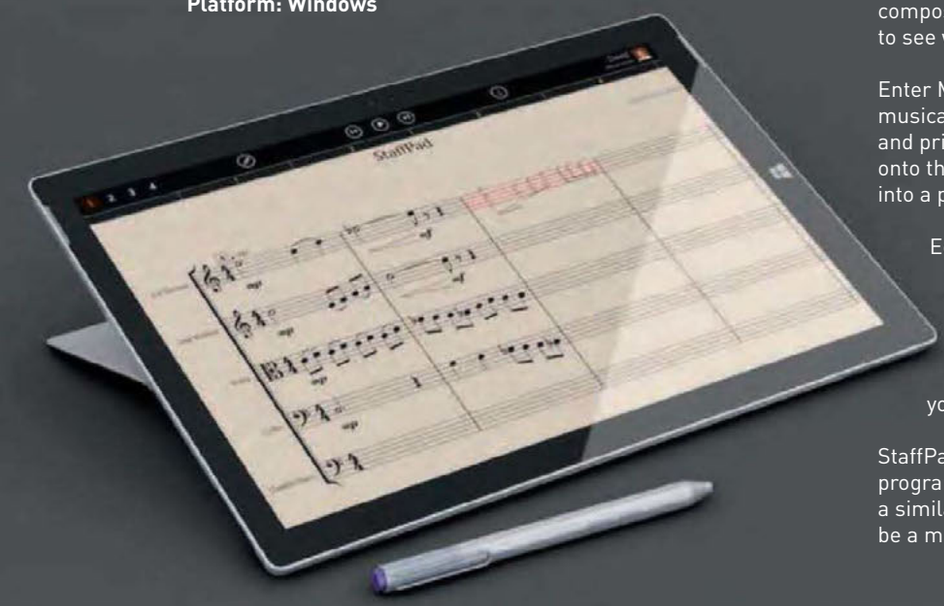
RakEM is now available for download on both Android and iOS and supports all languages. So even if you sometimes forget the "think before you send" rule, you're still safe.

Of course, if your recipient sees your mis-sent text first, that's another story.

STAFFPAD

$69.99

Platform: Windows



After seeing the demo video for this app, my jaw dropped. Being a frustrated musician who can't read notes (yet), composing music by ear is like banging rocks together to see which makes the best sound combination.

Enter Microsoft's StaffPad, an app that converts handwritten musical notes into editable music that can be played, shared, and printed from any Windows 8 tablet. Just scribble your notes onto the provided staff, and the app instantly translates these into a playable score.

Editing music is also intuitive: slide over to the section you wish to change, and the app's versatile functions will let you easily erase and shift notes, change the time, copy-paste notes and bars,and even add or change instruments. It's just like playing music directly from the same page that you've written it on, which keeps your creative momentum and inspiration alive.

StaffPad is the brainchild of composer, orchestrator, and programmer David William Hearn, who initially tried to develop a similar app for the iPad. Eventually, his concept proved to be a much better fit with Surface Pen and Windows tablets.

GOOGLE HANDWRITING INPUT

Platform: Android

Got a thing for handwritten notes? No need to carry a separate pen and notepad anymore. With Google's Handwriting Input app, you can now scribble down notes, reminders, lists, and other info on your tablet or phone. These will automatically be translated into text to be stored in your device.

Google Handwriting Input lets you write down a keyword when searching, and the app's intuitive aspect will provide you with appropriate search strings to choose from. You can even draw smileys, which the software will detect and translate into emojis.

This stylus-free app can recognize 82 languages, even those that are supposedly hard to type on a standard keyboard. You can also use it alongside any standard text and voice-operated keyboard; just long-press the space button to switch keyboards.

$2

SWOOSH

Platform: Android

It's not magic; it's science! With just a flick of your wrist and a wave of your hand, Swoosh for Android allows you to control your slide deck—perfect for company and school presentations.

Simply install the Swoosh app on your mobile Android device, select your desktop OS (Windows, Mac, or Linux), and install the server tool onto your computer. Make sure your device and computer are both connected to the same Wi-Fi network. Then place your phone or tablet in front of you, and swipe your hand from left to right, or in reverse, to switch back and forth between slides.

Developed by OnTheGo Platforms, Swoosh uses custom gesture recognition software called ARI (Augmented Recognition Interface), which turns mobile devices with a standard front camera into an interactive motion-detection interface. This enables users to intuitively control their devices using hand gestures, allowing for hands-free mobility.

Think of it as turning your hand into a remote control for your mobile.

Swoosh can be used with slideshows created with Microsoft PowerPoint Online, Google Slides, Prezi, Slidely, Keynote, and Acrobat Reader.

Words **CARMELA MARAAN FERNANDO**

EARN EVERY TIME YOU SWIPE

PopSlide FREE

Platform: Android

Words **GINO RICARDO DOMINGO**

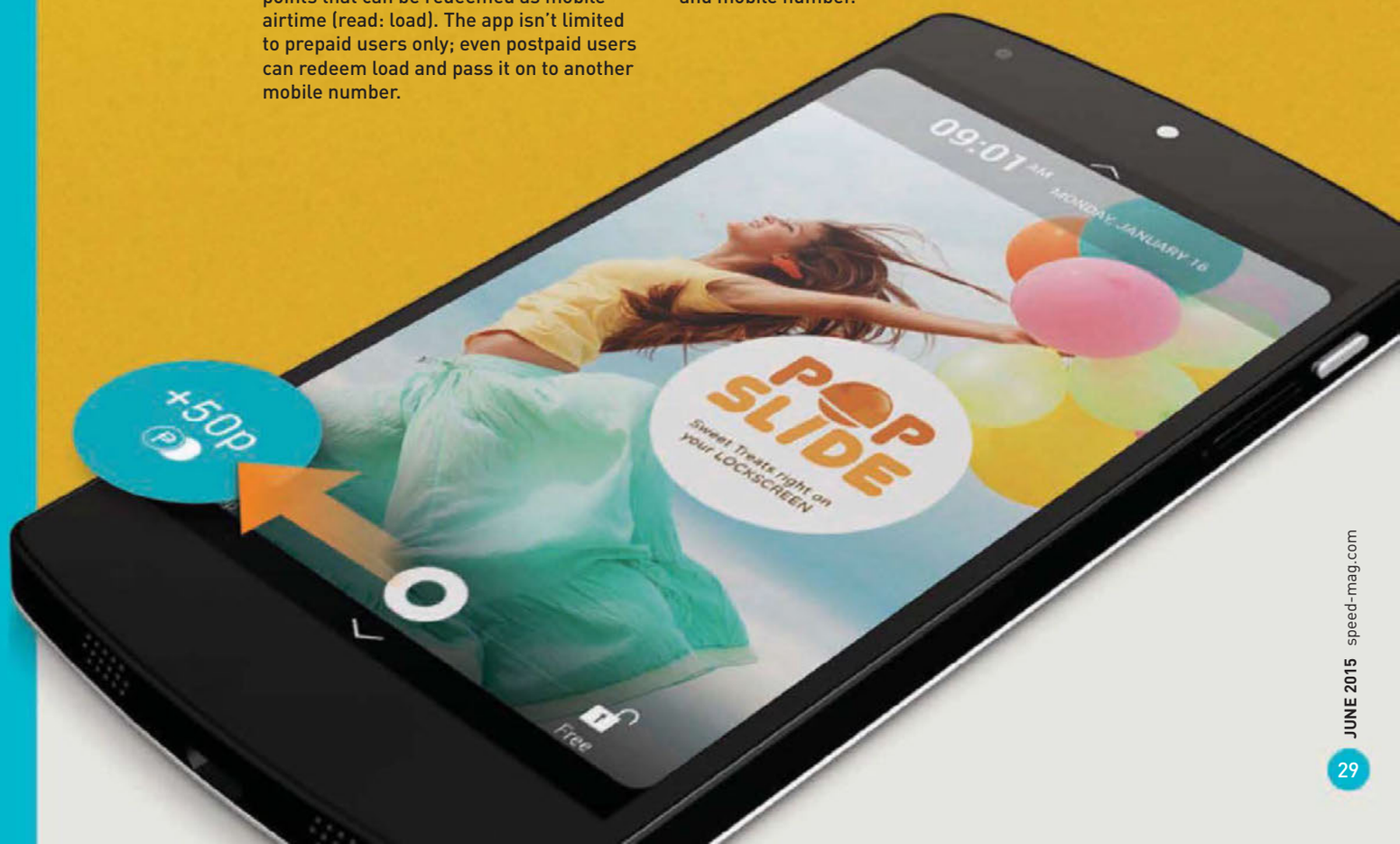
YOU INSTINCTIVELY SWIPE ON YOUR LOCK SCREEN EVERY TIME YOU WAKE YOUR PHONE. WHY NOT TURN THIS ROUTINE ACTION INTO A MORE REWARDING EXPERIENCE?

In this consumer-driven era, a swipe is often associated with something that would take away your money. The tech gurus at YOYO Holdings Pte. Ltd. however came up with an app that would reward you every time you swipe on your lock screen.

PopSlide is a lock screen rewards app that incentivizes swiping to view advertisements and installing apps with points that can be redeemed as mobile airtime (read: load). The app isn't limited to prepaid users only; even postpaid users can redeem load and pass it on to another mobile number.

With PopSlide, you will see a different set of ads per day on your lock screen with corresponding points if you swipe left to view the ad. Usually, you'll be redirected to a landing page of an article, a video, or the Google Play Store to install an app.

PopSlide is available to Android OS 2.3 devices and up. Once installed, it will ask permission to change the lock screen so that the ads can be viewed on your phone. What's good is that it won't require information like your credit card number; it will only ask for your gender, birth year, and mobile number.



APPLE WATCH:
THE START OF SOMETHING BIG

I've

HAD MY APPLE WATCH Sport for around 24 hours as of this writing, and while that's really not enough time to form a cohesive opinion of it, a number of aspects about this device have grabbed me at first blush.

THE LOOK OF SPORT
I have the silver 42mm Apple Watch Sport model in aluminum. It is the lightest of all three editions and also the least ostentatious. There's something elegant about its satin-finished aluminum, which is matte, and smudge- and scratch-free (which is more than I can say about the more expensive Apple Watch in stainless steel and the even more expensive 18K gold edition).

I must say then that the Apple Watch Sport is the essential Apple Watch. It is austere, simple, yet just as powerful as its more expensive siblings.

I like the look of the Watch Sport because it shares the roundness and appearance of the first-generation iPhone, which is an iconic design that still has a lot of Steve Jobs' aesthetic in it.

The Watch Sport comes with a baby blue fluoroelastomer (rubber) band. While attractive, I quickly ordered the black version as I'm not that sporty nor do I have many baby blue clothes.

WEARABILITY
The band fits very well; you can hardly feel it (or the Watch) once you've placed it on. This uses a rubber composite material, so it should be easy to wash and keep clean but I expect it to deform and discolor through time.

The Apple Watch is the most personal wearable I've tried. Once you've mated it to your iPhone, it requires a 4-character PIN code, which you need to enter each time you take it off.

Apple wants a bit of a tight fit because the Watch sporadically takes your heart rate and saves the data throughout the day for a more accurate reading of your health. The health app is always on and counts steps, makes sure you stand up every hour, and helps you set and keep your activity goals. I plan on getting healthier, losing some pounds, and improving my endurance, and so I will be putting the watch through its paces.

FEATURE RICH
Notifications are another great feature of the Apple Watch. Sure, other wearables have this, too. But the Watch integrates so much better with mail, WhatsApp, messages, and even text. You can send canned responses, use the built-in microphone to dictate a reply, or offload the message to your iPhone to type a longer string of text.

Siri and dictation work great on the Apple Watch. I've used Siri to find nearby burger joints, navigate new neighborhoods, send a text to my wife, and check the weather. Siri responds through text and when possible, using graphics.

Various apps also come with the Apple Watch. The most obvious is the Watch application that allows you to create your own timepiece. Unlike Android Wear, which offers thousands of third-party faces, the Apple Watch ships with only a handful. The good thing about the Watch faces is that they can be altered with "complications," so adding weather, alarm, moon phase, and even activity information is easy.

CALL TIME
I like the calling feature on the Apple Watch. It uses the iPhone's cellular signal, but you can have a pretty clear call using the Watch. The mic is powerful enough that you don't have to put the watch near your face to speak.

The Watch makes it possible to do many things without reaching for the iPhone. I find this more integrated and efficient than what Android Wear offers, which is simply mirroring notifications.

The Watch does mirror notifications as well, and many of the Watch apps are more like widgets that push information to the Watch. But there's more depth to the options as well as the various ways to interact with the information.

Other cool things about Apple Watch are the magnetic charging dock (battery is good for 18 hours) and the removable bands that require no tools to install. While Apple probably has a monopoly on Watchbands (and they're not cheap), there's no denying they are made of quality materials.

Apple Watch is the most cohesive attempt at a wearable and personal device I've seen. It renders many of the health trackers obsolete because it already has many of the features included plus a better software. I'm excited to see how this product and its accompanying ecosystem develop for users of all types.

GADJO CARDENAS SEVILLA

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THE CYBORG CAMCORDER

Canon XC10

Words ARITHA ZEL ZALAMEA

CANON MARRIES THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS AND GIVES A TANGIBLE GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE OF PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY: a single dream to rule them all.

This is made possible by the arrival of the Canon XC10—an ultracam, if you will—which lands on Earth to save camera users from devastation, which is essentially the perils of single-function shooters. Soon, you no longer need to decide between a still camera and a video camera because a "camera" in this utopian world functions as both.

Interested? Buy a ticket for $2,499 and ride into the future.

1 The 1-inch single-panel CMOS sensor gives the XC10 the power to produce up to 12-megapixel images. The camera uses the DIGIC DV5 engine to process crisp images.

2 The Canon 4K video lens has an aperture range of f/2.8-5.6 and a focal length of 8.9 to 89mm. This translates to a 35mm equivalent of 24.1 to 241mm for stills and 27.3 to 273mm for videos.

3 You can focus in full manual using the focus ring or heed the powers of the AF, which uses a TTL-video signal sensing system. You may also opt for face detection and tracking, AiAF (only in photo mode), PUSH AF, continuous and continuous AF (drive mode), and touch focus.

4 Know what you're shooting. The 3-inch color LCD helps give you the gift of preview, especially in a camera without a built-in viewfinder. The display offers 100 percent view field coverage, so you shouldn't expect any surprises in framing.

5 The Canon XC10 supports XF-AVC/MXF video file format, using the MPEG-4 AVC/H.264 compression. 4K recording is available up to 3840 x 2160 in 205 or 305Mbps, while HD recording is supported at 35 and 50Mbps.

6 Still images come in JPEG format. Whether you like a 16:9 ratio at 3840 x 2160 (8MP), 4:3 at 4000 x 3000 (12MP), or 3:2 at 4000 x 2664 (10MP), the XC10 got you covered. Worried about how your colors will turn out? Sit back and wait for your 8-bit YCC422 video output to find out on your own.

7 Use your CFast card when recording 4K videos. But when shooting photos and HD videos, you can rely on your good old SD card.

8 Stay connected via the HDMI OUT or USB port. The XC10 also comes with mic and headphone jacks, and a DC-IN socket for charging.

9 The XC10 comes with a hotshoe, allowing you to hook up your favorite flash for a brighter shot. But you might also want to explore the camera's ISO settings, which let you operate within an ISO range of 160 to 2000.

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Canon
FOCUS
M A
DISP.
PUSH AF
10x
OPTICAL
ZOOM
XC10
4K
EXHAUST VENT

Floats like a butterfly

BLACKMAGIC Micro Cinema Camera

Even Ant-Man will be impressed. The rise of drones brings new problems to light—like, how can you even use your high-res DSLR with it if your arm could barely handle the weight. Blackmagic Design has the answer in the Micro Cinema Camera that supports RAW format. Boasting a Super 16 sensor that makes 1920 x 1080-resolution shooting possible, this tiny shooter comes in a 300g body. But it's no lightweight in the imaging department, with a 13-stop dynamic range, and 1 x 1/4-inch and 3 x 1/4-inch mounting options to allow mounting on quadcopter drones, skateboards, or helmets. Operate the Blackmagic Micro Cinema Camera remotely as it flies high to the sky, taking photographic possibilities to new heights.

Price: $995

Scaling the grays

LEICA M Monochrom (Typ 246)

Leave it to Leica to force a seeming typographic error to the imaging elite. The latest update to its monochrome rangefinder promises significant improvements in handling. With a 24MP full-frame sensor that produces only black-and-white photos, the Leica M Monochrom (Typ 246) takes you back to the good old darkroom without leaving your memory card behind. The 2GB buffer memory facilitates faster processing of your JPEG or RAW (DNG) photos to keep you shooting for more. The 3-inch monitor serves as a window to your framing and post-processing options, while a dedicated button lets you activate video recording in 1080p Full HD. If you've got $7,450 stashed away, you can finally see red in grayscale.

MOUNT THEM GOOD

Lomo LC-A Minitar-1 Art Lens

WITHOUT AN ARTSY FARTSY LENS, YOUR RANGEFINDER BECOMES A COLD, LONELY, AND BORING CAMERA.

Sure, you've got photographic skills, but that doesn't mean you don't know how to have fun. Add bursts of coolness into your technical photography with the Lomo LC-A Minitar-1 Art Lens, which Lomography comes equipped with a Leica M-Mount coupling, making it compatible not only with your mirrorless camera, but also all Leica M-Mount rangefinders. The lens has an aperture range of f/2.8-22 and a focal length of 32mm. Get one for $349.

Words ARITHA ZEL ZALAMEA

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Know your action
GARMIN Virb X

The Garmin Virb X may be the little brother, but it holds its own to the elite XE variant (see p.52). Like the latter, the Virb X not only records your action but also tells your speed and amount of g-force, thanks to the new G-Metrix system. Recording 1080p videos at 30fps, Garmin's Virb X also connects with lots of accessory goodies via Bluetooth, ANT+, and Wi-Fi.
Price: $300

Does size matter?
NIKON 1 J5

Nikon updates its midrange mirrorless interchangeable lens camera with a retro, rangefinder-inspired design. Still sporting a 1-inch CMOS sensor, the 20MP Nikon 1 J5 hopes to win your heart through the addition of 4K shooting capability up to 20 frames per second. Wi-Fi and NFC capability allows the transfer of photos to your smart device and to the internet. The J5 gets even friendlier with the 11 NIKKOR lenses available on the Nikon 1 mount, and more via the FT1 adapter.
Price: $499.99

THE LENS HAVE EYES
Zeiss Batis

YOUR LENS KNOWS WHAT IT SEES, BUT YOU DON'T. AND IT NEVER FEELS GOOD TO BE LEFT IN THE DARK.

Zeiss has the answer: the world's first lenses with an OLED display to show you focal distance and depth of field. The f/2 25mm and f/1.8 85mm lenses support Sony's FE mount and come with optical image stabilization. They are also dust- and water-resistant, leaving you nothing to worry about—except for the $1,199 (f/1.8) and $1,299 (f/2) price tags.

Words ARITHA ZEL ZALAMEA

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Sky overlords

DJI Phantom 3 Advanced and Professional

Bow to the new lords of the sky: Phantom 3 Advanced and Phantom 3 Professional. Continuing DJI's aerial dominance, these two tiny quadcopters feature professional-grade cameras, real-time HD video displays, and intuitive flight controls.

The Phantom 3's biggest upgrade is the cameras. The Professional captures 4K footages at up to 30fps, while the Advanced takes 1080p images up to 60fps. Both use a 1/2.3-inch sensor and shoot with a narrowed 94-degree field of view.

Indoor or low-flight photography is made possible with the addition of ground-scanning sensors, which identify the drones' position and make them move accurately. Outside flight is more secure thanks to the GPS and GLONASS positioning system, allowing the UAV to take off automatically and return to the operator if it loses contact or is low in battery.

The Phantom 3 Advanced costs $1,000 and the Phantom 3 Professional has a $1,250 price tag.

Phantom 3 Advanced

Phantom 3 Professional

THE UAV DARK HORSE

3D Robotics Solo

FROM 3D ROBOTICS' LINE OF HOBBYIST DIY DRONES BREAKS THROUGH A NEW BREED OF CONSUMER-LEVEL QUADCOPTER DRONE CALLED THE SOLO.

Touted as the smartest drone ever, the 3DR Solo zooms forward the consumer drone race with its intelligent system and technologies. How smart is it? The Solo boasts not just one but two brains—a Linux micro in the controller *and* a 32-bit microprocessor in the drone itself. Thanks to the optional gimbal, you can have an unfettered in-flight access to GoPro Hero 4 4K controls (e.g., exposure, frame rate, field of view, single frame pictures, and so on) from the control unit or the mobile app. The smart battery, the Smart Shots feature, and a simulator mode for novices are some of the other features you get to try on the Solo.

A full setup of the 3D Robotics Solo—including the gimbal ($400), the GoPro Hero 4 4K ($400), and a spare battery ($150)—goes for $1,950.

Words PAT CALICA

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- Full HD video with 1080/60p format capabilities

DUAL DETECT OPTICAL VR | 60 OPTICAL ZOOM | VARI-ANGLE MONITOR

COOLPIX P610

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- 16.0-megapixel image sensor
- EVF with eye sensor
- Snap-back Zoom function
- GPS, GLONASS & QZSS support
- Built-in Wi-Fi® and NFC
- Full HD video with 1080/60p format capabilities

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At the heart of the image

Nikon

STEPPIN' UP

ASUS Zenfone 2

Words **ANTONIO JOSE GALAURAN**

ASUS upgrades its ammunition with the release of the more powerful and commanding Zenfone 2. With four different variants to suit every preference and budget, this innovation is out to lead the brand to new heights. Featured here is the global top-of-the-line model Zenfone 2 ZE551ML (4GB RAM variant).

1 ASUS puts together solid engineering and delicate craftsmanship to design the Zenfone 2. Sporting a 152.5 x 77.2 x 10.9mm frame, the ZE551ML body weighs a mere 170g while its edges narrow down to a sexy 3.9mm. Further accentuating this device's architecture are five color variants—Osmium Black, Sheer Gold, Glacier Gray, Glamor Red, and Ceramic White.

2 This 5.5-inch mobile device's screen dazzles with a 1920 x 1080-pixel resolution and a 403ppi pixel density. Shielding it from scratches and breakage is a Corning Gorilla Glass 3 protector.

3 Powered by Android Lollipop, a 2.3GHz quad-core Intel Atom Z3580 processor, and 4GB RAM, the Zenfone 2 makes multitasking and playing complex games possible. Storage shouldn't be a problem as the ZE551ML comes available in 32 and 64GB variants, both expandable via microSD.

4 Snap picturesque moments with the Zenfone 2's 13MP rear camera, which is capable of shooting up to 4128 x 3096 pixels and equipped with dual tone-LED flash. Its f/2.0 aperture gives you extra crisp shots and amplifies low-light shooting. The 5MP front shooter promises to be your selfie companion while also mustering video recording up to 1080p@30fps.

5 The Zenfone 2 ZE551ML comes packed with a large juice capacity of 3000mAh and boasts a fast-charging prowess of up to 60 percent after just 40 minutes of plug time.

6 This device allows 4G LTE connectivity, aside from Wi-Fi and Bluetooth 4. It also supports dual microSIM and USB OTG, letting you plug a USB flash drive through an OTG cable.

BLUE CORE

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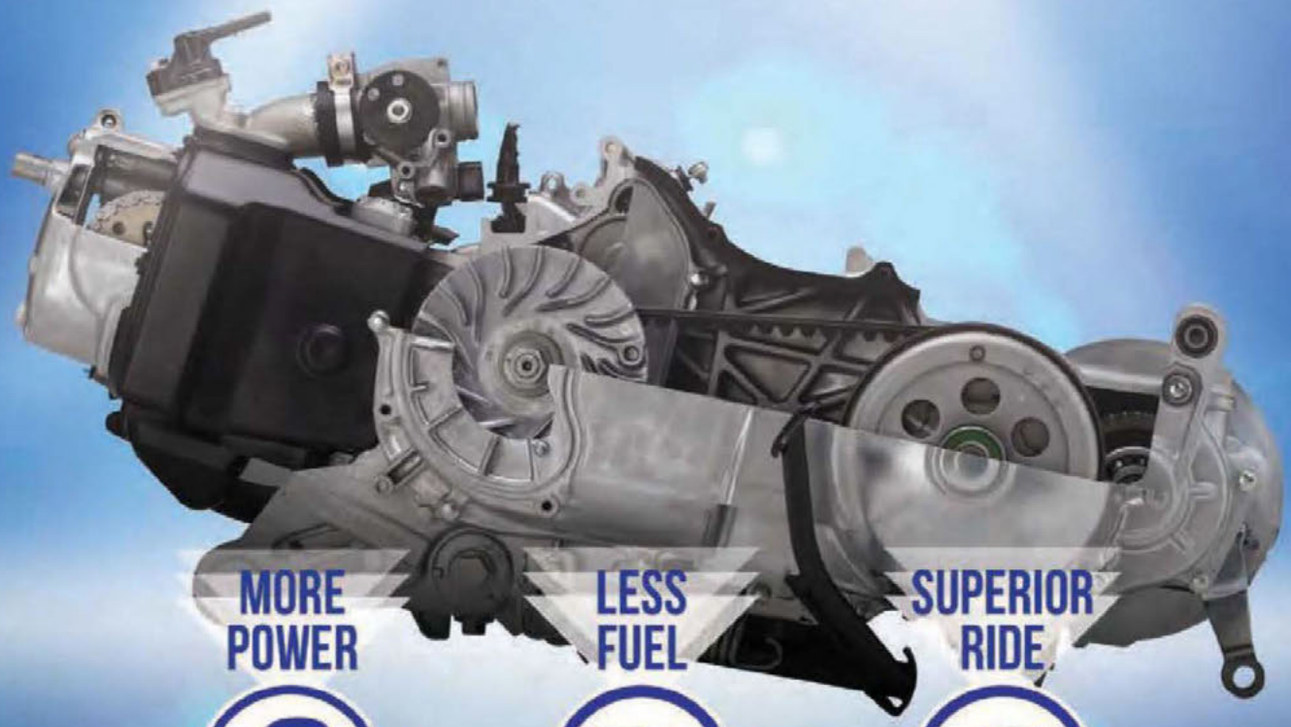

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Go Bro!
LG G4

A romantic date beneath the pale moonlight calls for a perfect wingman to set the mood. Find your best pal in the LG G4, a smartphone designed with state-of-the-art slim arc exterior and finely fitted leather finish—a perfect blend to go with your chivalrous get-up. Capture heart-melting portraits of your date with its 16MP f/1.8 rear shooter (available with manual and raw shooting capability), or fearlessly pose cheek-to-cheek in its 8MP front cam. Invite her to browse your photos in its 5.5-inch 2560 x 1440 pixel screen. While at it, impress her with your mad gaming skills; this phone's 1.8GHz 64-bit hexa-core Snapdragon 808 processor will not let you down. Stare at the stars until the wee hours of the morning, but don't forget to thank your buddy and its 3000mAh battery for staying up with you all night.

Prices: P32,990 (Genuine Leather), P31,990 (Metallic Finish)

STUDY BUDDY
Microsoft Lumia 540

BUSY COLLEGE BODIES ON THE LOOKOUT FOR A DEVICE THAT MATCHES THEIR PRODUCTIVITY NOW HAVE THE LUMIA 540 TO SAVE THEM.

Install and run apps smoothly thanks to the 1.2GHz quad-core Cortex-A7 processor, 1GB RAM, and 8GB internal memory upgradeable up to 128GB via microSD.

Reviewing for exams or beating deadlines should be a breeze with the Lumia 540's 5-inch 1280 x 720-pixel screen and pre-installed Microsoft Office. A built-in 8MP camera allows you to snap away lecture notes or record videos up to 480p @ 30fps. Unwind at the end of the day and take selfies with the Lumia 540's 5MP front shooter. This smartphone's decent 2200mAh battery should see you through your hectic schedule.

Price: P7,990

Words ANTONIO JOSE GALAURAN

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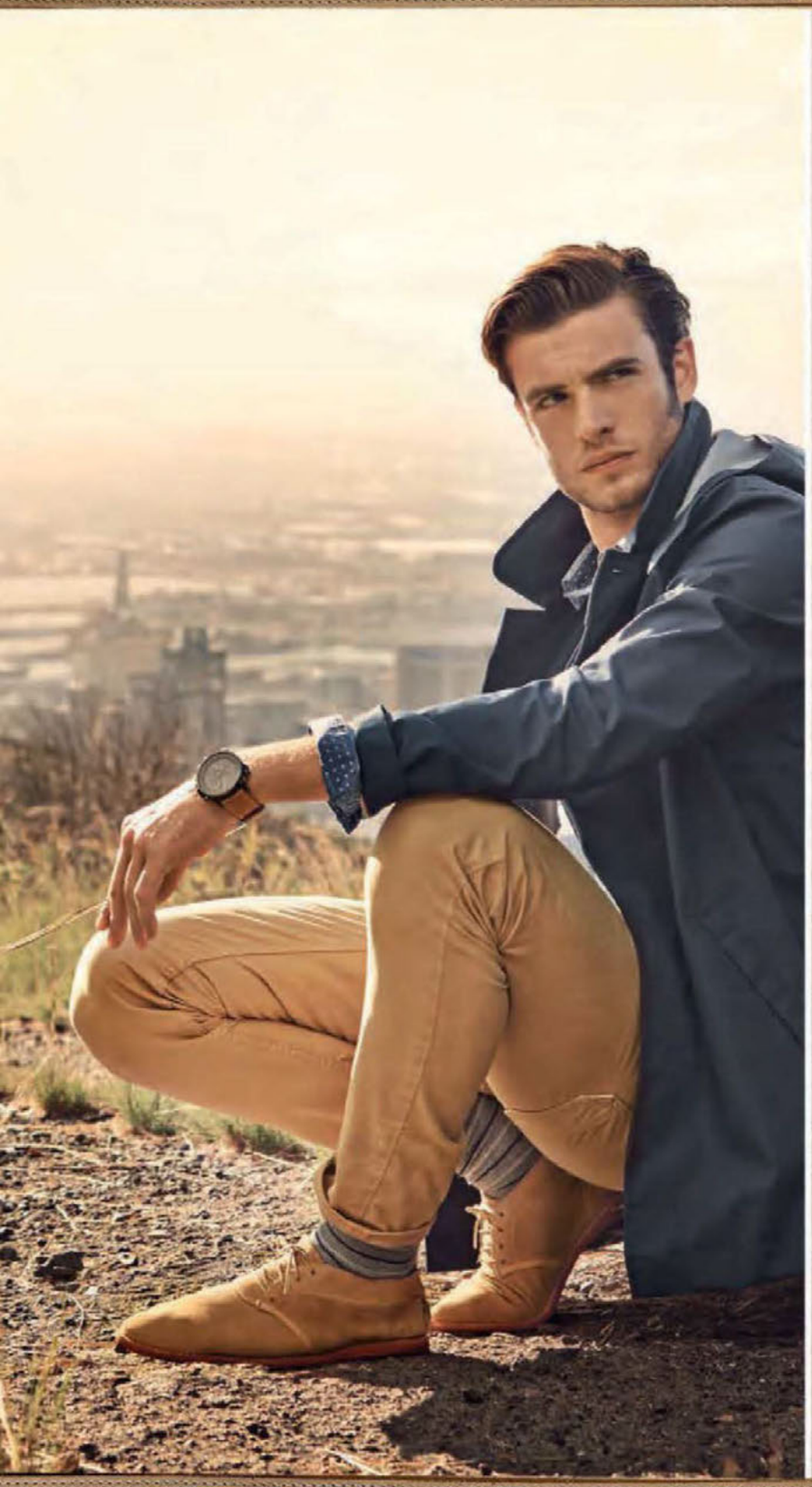

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Work-play balance

SAMSUNG SE790C Ultra-WQHD

Fusing an immersive, cinematic screen and a hardworking craftsman's multi-tasking LCD, the Samsung SE790C Ultra-WQHD curved monitor is a favored screen choice for balancing work and leisure.

This 34" WQHD monitor offers ultra-wide 21:9 aspect ratio and sleek, industry-leading 3000R curvature, which is patterned to match the eye's natural curve. Its 3440 x 1440-pixel resolution is 2.5 times higher than the resolution of a Full HD monitor. Adding deeper contrasts and more appealing vibrancy to the screen's video quality is its 3000:1 static contrast ratio.

But beyond being a mere living room cinema screen, the SE790C WQHD can turn into an instant extension of not just one but up to two of your PCs. With the Picture-by-Picture Technology, you can split your screen from two different input sources, allowing you to multi-task in a single, crystal-clear screen.
Price: P56,990

T500W

EFFICIENT DUO

Brother DCP-T300 and T500W

BROTHER'S DCP-T300 AND DCP-T500W REFILL TANK SYSTEM MULTI-FUNCTION CENTERS CATER TO A GROWING DEMAND FOR IN-HOUSE AND SMALL-SCALE BUSINESS PRINTERS THAT CAN MINIMIZE COST AND MAINTENANCE EFFORT BUT PRODUCE OUTSTANDING RESULTS.

These 3-in-1 multi-function centers—capable of printing, scanning, and photocopying documents and images—allow cheap printing costs but produce a high yield of up to 6,000 monochrome pages or 5,000 pages in color.

Both DCP-T500W and DCP-T300 boast a high-speed printing of 11 monochrome images in a minute or six in color. In fast mode, both printers can churn out 27 pages per minute (ppm) in monochrome or 10 ppm in colored. Both units also have a paper tray capacity of 100 pages.

The built-in design of the Refill Tank System not only saves desk space but also comes ergonomically designed for easy refilling. The only major difference between the two printers is that the DCP-T500W sports an extra wireless network connectivity feature, one which the DCP-T300 lacks.
Price: P8,450 (DCP-T300); P9,450 (DCP-T500W)

Words ANTONIO JOSE GALAURAN

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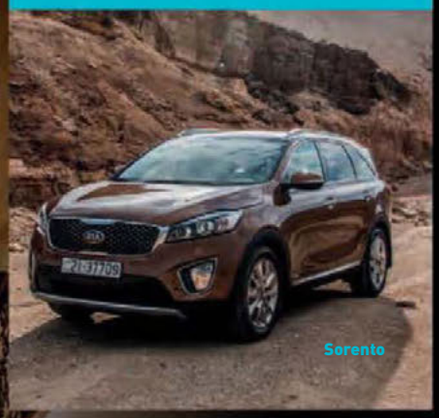
Sorento

Sit up and take notice

KIA Grand Carnival and Sorento

True to its name, the new Kia Grand Carnival is grand—and big. It has a 3,060mm long wheelbase, lots of legroom, and space for up to 7 passengers and cargo.

In addition to a 3.5-inch OLED multi-information display, there's a multimedia system with AUX and USB ports, auto light control, and active eco system controls for engine, transmission, and climate. Aside from stow-away third-row seats, there are second-row captain's seats that fold and unfold with a simple one-touch action.

The third-generation Kia Sorento, on the other hand, gains all-terrain surefootedness courtesy of Kia's DYNAMAX all-wheel drive system. The interior is luxurious and features various creature comforts. It can seat 7 persons in a 2-3-2 format.

Both the Grand Carnival and Sorento are powered by a 2.2L in-line, 4-cylinder, CRDi diesel engine mated to a 6-speed automatic gearbox, and feature leather seats, Smart Key push button engine start/stop, large moon roof, and power tailgate. The Grand Carnival gets the additional luxury of dual power sliding doors.

OFF-ROAD READY

Chevrolet Colorado Tracker

AS IF THE BOW TIE BRAND'S PICKUP TRUCK ISN'T TOUGH ENOUGH, THE AUTOMAKER IS NOW SELLING AN OFF-ROAD-READY VERSION OF THE CHEVROLET COLORADO.

At P1,588,888, the Colorado Tracker is fitted with a 2.8-liter Duramax 4-cylinder diesel engine and a 6-speed manual transmission. Aside from the standard one-ton payload, this edition comes with a 12,000-pound power winch for towing, a 6,000-pound tow hitch with electrical receiver, skid plates to protect the underchassis, all-terrain tires, a dash cam, reverse camera with digital compass, and air intake snorkel. A new lift kit increases the Colorado Tracker's height, improving the truck's 800mm water wading depth.

Words KATRINA RIVERE-DIGA

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Strong, smart, stylish

FORD Everest

Built from the ground up, the all-new Ford Everest is a strong, smart, and stylish SUV that promises to blend exceptional on- and off-road capabilities. It comes with several first-in-segment features including Terrain Management System, panoramic sunroof, third-row PowerFold seats and Power Tailgate, Active Park Assist, and Blind Spot Information System (BLIS) with Cross Traffic Alert.

Up front, the 2015 Everest is fitted with LED daytime running lights as well as a muscular hood and an inverted trapezoidal grille. The rear sports LED taillights and a power-operated tailgate.

The seven-seater Everest is powered either by a 2.2L or a 3.2L TDCI turbodiesel engine, mated to a six-speed automatic or manual transmission.

The all-new Everest comes equipped with SYNC 2, Ford's in-car connectivity solution and third row seats with power fold system.
Price: P1,339,000 to P1,899,000

BIG ON FUN

Mazda 2

MOST SUB-COMPACT CARS AREN'T TAKEN SERIOUSLY; SOME ARE EVEN PREJUDICED AGAINST. MAZDA HOPES TO CHANGE THAT WITH THE ALL-NEW MAZDA 2, which incorporates Mazda's Kodo design language and now has a longer wheelbase for a bigger interior space and better handling.

The new Mazda 2 is powered by a 1.5-liter SkyActiv-G engine that churns out 106hp and 139Nm of torque, and is paired with a 6-speed SkyActiv Drive automatic transmission with Sport mode.

The top-spec R variant comes with leather seats, 16-inch wheels, paddle shifters, a 7-inch display, and Mazda's head up display called the Active Driving Display. The S and V variants come with 15-inch wheels, fabric seats, and a smaller 3.5-inch monitor controlled via a scroll wheel in the center console. All variants come with a push start/stop button.

Mazda currently offers four variants for the Mazda 2: SkyActiv R 4dr (P925,000), SkyActiv V 4dr (P865,000), SkyActiv S 4dr (P795,000), and 1.5V SkyActiv V 5dr (P855,000).

PONY POWER

Ford Mustang

THAT LONG SCULPTED HOOD AND SHORT REAR DECK THAT ZOOMED PAST YOU LOOK UNMISTAKABLY FAMILIAR? Yes, it's the all-new sixth-generation Ford Mustang, and it's officially available locally in two high-performing engines to choose from: the 5.0L V8 (P2,999,000) and the 2.3L EcoBoost (P2,400,000) engine.

The EcoBoost engine uses direct injection, variable cam timing, and turbo charging, for 310hp and 434Nm of torque. The latest edition of the V8 engine, on the other hand, yields more than 435hp and 542Nm of torque.

The all-new Mustang comes with driver-assist features including Blind Spot Information System with cross-traffic alert and adaptive cruise control, as well as Ford's SYNC AppLink. Other smart features on this pony are SYNC with MyFord Touch, MyKey, keyless entry, and push-button start.

Words KATRINA RIVERE-DIGA

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(0917) 504-9661
(0922) 830-2011
CALAMBA CITY (049) 545-4546
LUCENA CITY (042) 710-7122
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(0925) 555-1513
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(034) 435-5538
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Bigger Mini

MINI 5 Door

The iconic MINI Cooper gains two more doors, more foot space and legroom, and bigger luggage space. And yet despite the extra size, this new MINI promises to keep the same go-kart feel and precision as the 3-door model.

The all-new MINI 5 Door is available locally in two variants—MINI Cooper and MINI Cooper S—and comes in 3-cylinder and 4-cylinder engines with MINI Twin Power Turbo Technology. Both are fitted with rotary switch at the base of the gear or selector lever to activate the standard Mid mode, Sport, or Green mode.

The Cooper 5 Door (P2.3M) is powered by a 1.5L 3-cylinder engine with output of 136hp and a maximum torque of 220Nm. The more spirited Cooper S 5 Door (P2.8M) comes with a 2.0L 4-cylinder engine with 192hp and 280Nm.

LEAN AND MEAN

2015 Isuzu D-MAX

LOWER-DISPLACEMENT ENGINES SEEM TO BE THE IN THING IN THE PICKUP TRUCK SEGMENT, AND ISUZU HAS JOINED THE FRAY.

The 2015 Isuzu D-MAX features a new 2.5L 4JK1-TC engine with CRDi and an inter-cooled Variable Geometry System (VGS) turbocharger.

The revamped D-MAX is fitted with new projector headlights as well as LED combination taillights. It also has a custom bedliner and reverse sensor system, and a dark gray interior theme with silver accents.

A new color—Cobalt Blue—is now available, along with the existing Cosmic Black, Garnet Red, Titanium Silver, and Splash White.

THE ISUZU D-MAX PRICES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

4x4 LS AT
P1,487,000
4x4 LS MT
P1,428,000
4x2 LS AT
P1,206,000
4x2 LS MT
P1,154,000
4x4 LT MT
P1,178,000
LT-X MT
P935,000
LT MT
P872,000
MT Single Cab
P712,000

Words KATRINA RIVERE-DIGA

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Tucson

i20 Cross Sport

BOLD AND DARING

Hyundai Tucson and i20 Cross Sport

DURING THE RECENT OPENING OF THE HYUNDAI LOGISTICS CENTER IN CALAMBA, LAGUNA, HYUNDAI ASIA RESOURCES INC. GAVE A SNEAK PREVIEW OF TWO OF ITS UPCOMING VEHICLES: THE ALL-NEW TUCSON AND i20 CROSS SPORT.

The Tucson gets a makeover with a bold and athletic exterior and a sophisticated and ergonomic interior. Featuring Hyundai's Fluidic Sculpture 2.0 design language, the new Tucson comes with square-shaped wheel arches, wedge-shaped lighting fixtures, and the brand's signature hexagonal grille. The compact crossover is fitted with power-adjustable seats, power tailgate, Smart Key with push-button start/stop, and a host of safety features.

Like the Tucson, the i20 Cross Sport features the fluidic sculpture design philosophy. This five-seater has a 170mm ground clearance and promises to capably handle rough and difficult terrain. Inside, the i20 Cross Sport is integrated with a multi-function steering wheel and a 60:40 seat configuration.

Both vehicles are expected to be launched in the market this semester.

Words KATRINA RIVERE-DIGA

Taking you places

HONDA Mobilio

Going on a trip with your family or *barkada* of seven? No need to take separate cars or go on a convoy with the Honda Mobilio, the brand's first seven-seater multipurpose utility vehicle (MUV).

Based on a stretched Brio platform, the Mobilio is powered by a 1.5L i-VTEC engine that generates 118hp and 145Nm, and is mated to either Honda's Earth Dreams CVT (RS and V variants) or a five-speed manual gearbox (E variant).

To make even long trips comfortable, Honda equipped the Mobilio with a spacious cabin, flexible seats (60/40 split for the second row, 50/50 split for the third), rear A/C vents, and a sedan-like ride. The RS variant comes with a 7-inch touchscreen audio unit with navi, while the V variant is fitted with a 2-DIN head unit with Bluetooth audio and handsfree connectivity.

Standard safety features include driver and passenger airbags, ABS with EBD, seatbelt reminder, Isofix attachments, and an immobilizer.

The top-spec 1.5 RS Navi CVT goes for P967,000, while the 1.5 V CVT and 1.5 E MT are priced at P877,000 and P807,000, respectively.

Shutter-lagged road trooper

Whichever stretch of road you and your girl plan to get your kicks on will do—anything to get your bum off the corporate throne for a few days. But what do you pack when you're channeling your inner Kerouac?

The new (1)**Garmin Virb XE camera** ($400), that's for sure. Under this action cam's hood is a 12.4MP 1/2.3-inch CMOS sensor, which works hand in hand with a wide-angle lens. The one-touch control and high contrast 1-inch display help you operate the camera without a hitch, so go record the whole drive and hope you catch something interesting along the highway.

No need to match your attire to the landscape. Keep it relaxed with outfits that look better wrinkled, coffee-splashed, and/or greased. The natural white and patterned (2)**H&M Tank Top** (P599) and the dark blue (3)**H&M cotton shorts** (P1,490) would fit the bill. The (4)**Mango two-strap leather sandals** (P2,950) are just the right low-maintenance footwear you'd want to bring on the road.

Providing all-day comfort and reducing glare while you're traversing the dusty freeway is the (5)**Oakley Polarized Badman** ($400). Its lenses come with XYZ optics, which gives you clear all-angle views, while its 8.75 base curvature blocks peripheral wind and sun.

Words PAT CALICA

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City street clicker

From the bustling traffic to the unfrequented nature nooks, from abandoned alleys to the proud skyscrapers—there are a lot of stories to be told while walking the gritty roads of the city.

Capture compelling images of the street life with the (1)**Pentax K-3 II** ($1,100 body only). It took what made its predecessor a recommended DSLR—great image quality, large viewfinder, dual memory card slot, and a rugged, weather-sealed body—and improved it with features such as Pixel Shift Resolution, continuous subject tracking autofocus, 4.5 stops of shake reduction, and GPS. All these and more make the K-3 II a good camera to sling over your shoulder when you go around Manila for a photo walk.

You'll be squatting for good angles, walking under the sun, and blending in the crowd. Keep your clothes simple to give you comfort and ease of movement, while making you stylish and ready for a quick photo op on a graffiti-covered wall. Pair a white (2)**Mango chest-pocket linen t-shirt** (P1,750) with navy (3)**Mango cuffed hem cotton-blend trousers** (P3,250). The white (4)**NikeLab Dunk High x DSM shoes** ($165) and the dark blue (5)**H&M Cap with printed design** (P499) add flair to your overall look.

Words **PAT CALICA**

Extreme biker vantage

Winning the Cyclo-cross World Cup not only takes skills and lots of practice. Aside from having a damned good bike, you'll need the right gear to get optimum performance.

Hot on the heels of your training buddies, record your pre-race practice on the gravel with the (1)**TomTom Bandit action camera** (£299.99 for standard pack). This 16MP shooter comes with a built-in media server that allows you to film, edit, and share your video on the go. Its wide-angle lens, water resistance up to 50m, and 3 hours of battery life ensure more image and video coverage.

Wear the (2)**Rapha Pro Team Aerosuit** ($340) for a light, aerodynamic skinsuit with the same versatility and functionality of a traditional jersey-shorts combination. The laces-based (3)**Sommerville Sports Shredder mountain bike shoes** ($180) are good for commuters and trail riders alike with the reflective Scotchlite lining, keeping you visible during the ride. The (4)**Catlike Mixino road helmet 2015** ($299) is the first to incorporate Graphene nanofibers on its inner aramid skeleton, which makes the Mixino helmet up to 200 times more impact-resistant than steel yet extremely light.

Put on the (5)**Oakley Polarized Madman sunglasses** ($400) and make a statement on the trail. The Madman's bold attitude and innovative design—three-point fit, custom-engineered spring hinges, and a nose bridge of sandblasted O Matter—defy the rules of what a sports eyewear should be.

Words PAT CALICA

HONDA
The Power of Dreams

BOOST YOUR RIDE

XR 150L

Mono Shock

150 CC Engine

19" Front Tire Size

⌀240 mm Front Disk Brake

HONDA

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Cost cutter

SHARP J-Tech Inverter Refrigerator

Need an energy and pocket-saving refrigerator to avoid those spiking electricity bills? Worry no more with the Sharp J-Tech Inverter Refrigerator, specially designed to be an efficient food and beverage keeper.

With the J-Tech Inverter Technology, this fridge incorporates a 32-Step Control, an innovation that can save you up to 40 percent energy through its built-in incremental cooling speed. This same technology allows the Sharp J-Tech Inverter Refrigerator to provide just the optimum cooling temperature for your stored items.

Disgusting stench released by stored food is remedied by the Sharp J-Tech Inverter Refrigerator through its Ag+ Nano Deodorizers, which trap odor molecules to keep stored food naturally fresh-smelling and leaving the product's taste unchanged.

This refrigerator also provides a spacious container—a 75L freezer capacity, above average 17L vegetable room, and a big door pocket finely fitting three 2L bottles and one 500mL bottle.

CALM AND COOL

Midea Mirror Black and Genesis White Inverter

Have you just moved in to a new home? Or perhaps you're thinking about revamping an old office to make it more comfortable for your employees? Midea released a new line of split-type cooling solutions perfect for homeowners and businesses that could boost your living and working conditions. Leading its innovative line are the Mirror Black Inverter and Genesis White Inverter air conditioners.

The top-of-the line Mirror Black Inverter sports a sleek black finish to adorn your office or living room. Go green with this air-conditioning unit as it utilizes Turbo DC Inverter that helps save energy. A D-Tech function meanwhile allows temperature regulation via a sensor on the remote controller.

On the other hand, the Genesis White Inverter is perfect for setting a calm ambience to your place. Activating Quiet Mode turns on a large diameter fan that minimizes the indoor unit's noise level.

Both units have various models ranging from 1.0hp to 2.5hp with a cooling capacity between 10,000kJ/h and 23,500kJ/h. Thanks to a system power input of 765 to 1,970W (depending on the model unit) and an energy efficiency ratio of 13.1 to 11.9kJ/W-Hr, you're promised to get your money's worth.

Words ANTONIO JOSE GALAURAN

Mirror Black

Genesis White Inverter

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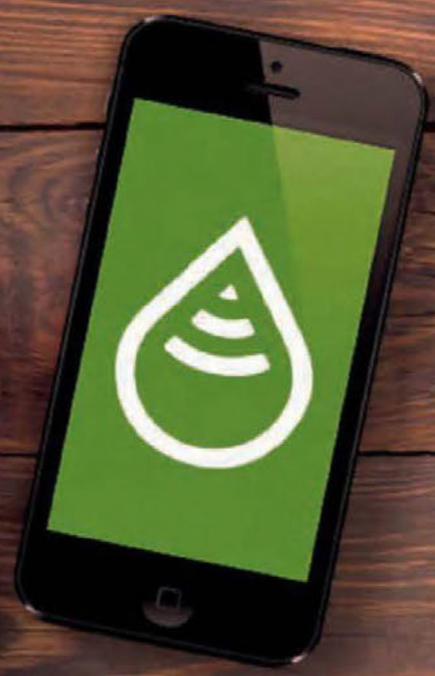

Watered down. Not.

GREENIQ Smart Garden Hub

Treehuggers and green thumb-toters, listen up. GreenIQ has come up with a smart gardening tool that can detect and systemize your garden's irrigation needs.

With GreenIQ's Smart Garden Hub, you'll probably begin cutting down on water consumption (and some muscle effort) as it automatically detects a plant's need for H_2O based on the weather condition. For instance, a rainy weather will do the watering for you, while a hot weather alerts you to sprinkle more water.

Combining the power of plant sensors, a weather monitor, and a sprinkler, the Smart Green Hub makes watering your plants not only more efficient but also more environment-friendly.

The Smart Garden Hub also allows customization of your irrigation program through a mobile device or PC. The GreenIQ Web app enables you to modify the device's watering schedule and feeds you with the status of your irrigation system such as open and closed irrigation zones.

This smart sprinkler system is now available worldwide and offers shipping options via the GreenIQ site.
Price: $250

CHILLIN' OUT

Bosch 800 series

House parties are making a comeback, so you'll be in need of a fridge for added storage. Better check out Bosch's 800 series 24" Glass Door Counter-Depth Bottom Freezer.

The bottom freezer has three drawers 10 cubic feet of storage for all the sausages, steaks and burger patties you need to grill. The lustrous minimalist architecture eliminates the need for fancy knobs and hinges, and comes as an easy match for any home interior.

Inside this machine is a top fridge with a humidity-controlling Hydrofresh fruit and vegetable drawer, a delicately designed wine rack for your drinking classics, and LED-lit glass shelves sporting metal-trimmed edges.

Before you know it, your crib may just be the next party hotspot. Brace yourself for the long lines, brotha.
Price: $2,500

Words ANTONIO JOSE GALAURAN

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PROVING GROUND

The epitome of notebooks

APPLE MacBook

66

WHAT WE TESTED THIS MONTH

June **2015**

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LG Music Flow P7 64

MYPHONE Rio 2
XIAOMI Mi Band 68

XIAOMI Redmi 2
PLANTRONICS Voyager Edge 70

GEEK METER

- BUY NOW
- GOOD ENOUGH
- WHY NOT?
- MEDIOCRE
- BECAUSE NO

72 **BMW** 420d Gran Coupe

74 Battlefield Hardline

PRODUCT TEST NO. 1656

Stripped down but powerful

SAMSUNG NX500

Review by RON CRUZ

THE NUMBERS

Sensor
28.2MP BSI APS-C CMOS
Lens
16-50mm f/3.5-5.6 Power Zoom ED OIS
Display
3.0" 1,036k-dot tiltable Super AMOLED with touchscreen
Storage
SD/SHDC/SDXC
Video
4K/Ultra HD/Full HD HEVC/MJPEG @ 24fps
Connectivity
Wi-Fi, NFC, Bluetooth, USB 2.0
Price
P39,990

DIMENSIONS
119.5 x 63.6 x 42.5mm, 292g

Samsung has been making waves in the mirrorless camera front, especially with their powerful behemoth of a flagship camera that is the NX1, which boasts DSLR-like image quality and 4K video capabilities. When Samsung put all of that technology and roaring horsepower into a smaller neat little package, jaws collectively drop: Samsung's NX500 has everything you want in the NX1 inside a sexier and much more portable shell.

The shutter button is strategically placed in a slanted orientation, making it much easier and comfortable to press. The i-Function isn't very user-friendly, though, especially if you want to use the camera right off the bat without reading up on any literature on it. Once you get the hang of using the iFn button however, shooting becomes a breeze.

Colors are vibrant, contrast is just right, and color gradients in the sky are even visible. The NX500 has ISO values ranging from 100 all the way to 25,600. While the latter is still a grainy mess, it's a nice option to have. With that said you can go as high as ISO 4000 and still produce good, usable photos.

Having the option to focus using the LED display is a good feature, especially if you're after some bokeh drama.

One of the things Samsung is really proud about is its NX Autofocus System III, which uses 205 phase (153 cross type) and 209 contrast detection autofocus points in order to quickly acquire focus. This practically covers the whole frame, giving you pinpoint accuracy in focusing and framing your shots.

One thing you'll miss from the NX1 that the NX500 doesn't have is weather sealing. It's not like you want to get your camera wet, but it is nice to have the peace of mind that weather sealing gives.

SPEED SAYS

The Samsung NX500, although similar to the NX1 in a lot of things, has a lot of concessions from the flagship camera. The NX500, however, is less than a third of the price of the NX1, which makes the former very attractive, especially to those in the market for a new camera. It's admittedly a stripped down, bare bones version of the NX1, but you're still getting all that shooting power for the price of a song; what you're paying for is the same impeccable sensor and the processing engine.

GEEK METER

The NX500 is built to look like a classic rangefinder, a common stylistic approach in digital cameras nowadays. Its ergonomics are great. The body with the front grip fits snugly in your hand, and the thumb rest at the back is something that's sorely lacking in other cameras.

The NX500 has the capability to shoot 4K, Ultra HD, and full HD video. One big caveat here, however, is that 4K is achieved by cropping the middle 60 percent of the image (which is not the same as in the NX1). There's no live view of this cropping, so you're practically going in blind. For some reason the NX500 doesn't have a dedicated movie shooting dial. To view the 4K crop, you have to go through some hoops, which can get tiresome if you're primarily a video shooter.

The kit lens that the NX500 comes with is a decent performer. The 16-50mm f/3.5-5.6 Power Zoom OIS lens does plenty of work. It's versatile and the effective focal range of 24.6-77mm is perfect for daily use.

The lens is outfitted with an iFn button and zooming controls. You can still manually zoom with the lens barrel, but the ergonomics of doing so is a little off. Being electronic, however, zooming can get noticeably slow enough for you to miss some shots.

The blazing fast tracking and autofocus speed combined with the NX500's continuous shooting rate of 9fps and shutter speeds going as high as 1/6000s make the camera ideal for sports and action shots.

Owing to its large APS-C sensor, the NX500 produces high quality images. The 28.2-megapixel sensor coupled with the fast DRIMe Vs image processor works like a charm in giving you the crisp images you need.

PRODUCT TEST NO. 1657

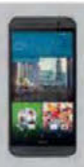
Just another rerun?

HTC One M9

Review by GADJO CARDENAS SEVILLA

THE **NUMBERS**

Display
5-inch 1080 x 1920, 441ppi
OS
Android 5.0
CPU
1.5GHz quad-core Cortex-A53 + 2GHz quad- 2GHz Cortex-A57
Memory
32GB internal, microSD up to 128GB, 3GB RAM
Camera
20MP rear, 4MP front
Connectivity
NFC, Wi-Fi (802.11b/g/n), Bluetooth 4.1, microUSB 2.0
Price
$650

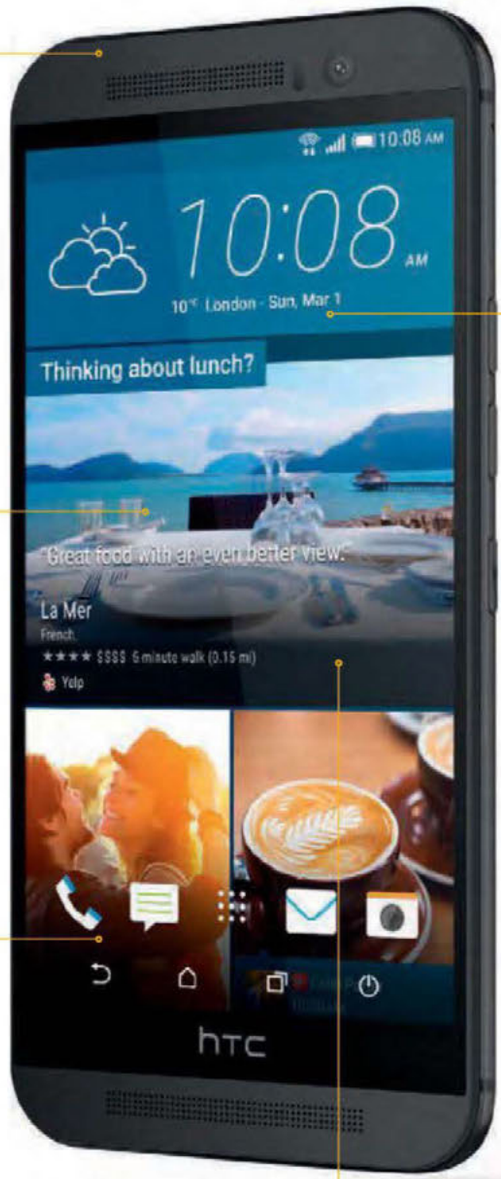


DIMENSIONS
144.6 x 69.7 x 9.61 mm, 157g

The HTC One M9 feels refined and polished, and is still one of the best-looking flagship devices on any platform. But is it desirable?

The new gunmetal finish of my review unit had a smooth texture that was not slippery. The edges and corners are rounded, the unibody case has a unique hairline texture, and the corners are no longer prone to chipping and denting.

It's a spitting image of last year's M8 with a bit of DNA of the M7. There are some gold highlights as well as a slightly smaller profile. The unibody design is still one of the most premium in the market; it feels good in the hand and looks professional.



The processor is formidable and performance is top-notch even with multiple apps open. The 3GB RAM is a big plus.

Battery life is very good, with various controls and settings that can extend efficiency.

The pared down Sense 7 UI is butter-smooth on the M9. However, features like BlinkFeed and Zoe are cool but easily forgotten.

It features the same 1080 x 1920-pixel resolution as last year's HTC One M8 but with a better constructed zero gap display, which makes it a bit more vibrant and clearer. It's a great screen overall.

Good news is that the overhyped (and underwhelming) UltraPixel camera has been moved to the front. The bad news is that the 20-megapixel rear-facing camera is pretty disappointing and inconsistent. There's not even an optical image stabilizaton to help in low-light photography. HTC has fallen behind in the camera department.

SPEED SAYS

The HTC One M9 is an iterative model that slightly improves on what its predecessors had to offer. The problem is that there's nothing new or exciting about this year's offering, and certainly nothing that makes it more desirable than a Moto X (2014) or a GALAXY S6.

GEEK METER

HONDA
The Power of Dreams

THE NEW CLICK 125i

JOIN THE EVOLUTION

Honda smart TECHNOLOGY

esp ENHANCED SMART POWER

Combi Brake

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HONDA

PRODUCT TEST NO. 1658

Free flowing sound

LG Music Flow P7

Review by JOHN SOSMEÑA

THE **NUMBERS**

Output
20W
Connectivity
Bluetooth, aux, microUSB
Price
P6,890

DIMENSIONS
184 x 55 x 63mm, 710g

Taking command of the music scene isn't always easy when you're hindered by heavy speakers and long, windy auxiliary cables. But LG's new sound system lets you keep your music on the go and cord-free. The best part? It can connect to more than one device. It's (literally) a multi-way sound trip for the long haul!

Connectivity performance was so-so. It'd be great if you can start listening to music sans the accompanying app. In some instances while transferring music, connectivity issues persisted. Several times, the connection got lost. Other times, it stopped entirely for seconds.

The LG Music Flow P7 is sleek and blends perfectly in most places you'd expect it to be (beside your computer, inside your car, etc.). The metallic steel finish provides a classic look.

For its size, the speaker is quite heavy. But even at that weight, it's a keeper with the sound quality it delivers.

SPEED SAYS

Powerful? Check. Easy to use? Check. Badass? Check. Portable? Check. With what it can offer in such a small space and at that price, odds are, the LG Music Flow P7 will give today's Bluetooth speakers a run for their money. It is worth every peso from your pocket.

GEEK METER

Part of enjoying music is sharing it with others. I'd have to say that the Music Flow P7's multipoint feature is among my favorites. My friends and I were able to share our own tunes left and right within Bluetooth range. For a long trip to the countryside, the Music Flow P7 is a must-have in the car.

The Music Flow P7 delivered—to some extent. Vocal-driven songs (e.g., John Mayer's and Ed Sheeran's acoustic sessions) weren't given much justice, but playback was pretty good for some lively music (e.g., "Sisters" by A Tribe Called Red and "Bad Blood" by Bastille). Still, this bad boy packs a punch on the bass. And you will barely feel the difference between listening via Bluetooth or auxiliary cable.

The Dual Play feature is for those who want the Music Flow P7 to pack an extra punch, and have the budget for two. Dual Play offers high-quality stereo sound and extra volume for your listening pleasure; and with one speaker already delivering real good quality as it is, it's definitely a good investment.

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be inspired

RIO 2

FOR ONLY P5,499

Android 5.0 Lollipop | 1.3GHz Quad-Core
5.0 IPS HD Full Lamination
8MP Main Camera w/ Sony Sensor + 5MP Front Camera
8GB ROM + 1GB RAM | 2800 mAh Battery

RIO 2 LITE

FOR ONLY P4,599

Android 5.0 Lollipop | 1.3GHz Quad-Core
4.7" IPS Display
8MP Main Camera w/ Samsung Sensor + 2MP Front Camera
8GB ROM + 1GB RAM | 2120 mAh Battery

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PRODUCT TEST NO. 1659

The epitome of notebooks

APPLE MacBook

Review by GADJO CARDENAS SEVILLA

THE **NUMBERS**

Display
12-inch LED-backlit 2340 x 1440 226ppi 16:10 Retina Display
OS
OS X Yosemite
CPU
1.1/1.2GHz dual-core Intel Core M, Intel HD Graphics 5300 GPU
Memory
256/512GB internal storage, 8GB RAM
Connectivity
Wi-Fi (802.11a/b/g/n/ac), Bluetooth 4.0, USB-C, DisplayPort 1.2
Price
Starts at $1,299

DIMENSIONS
280.5 x 196.5 x 13.1mm, 920g

The new 12-inch Apple MacBook with Retina Display is the latest in a long series of notebook innovations by Apple. It boldly follows the footsteps of the PowerBook Duos, the crazy clamshell iBooks, the Titanium PowerBook G4, and its parent, the MacBook Air.

Available in Gold, Space Grey, and Silver, the MacBook represents Apple as it is today—high technology and fashion melded into one.

The thinnest and lightest Mac ever, this MacBook has an all-aluminum enclosure that compressed every component. It also introduced a new keyboard mechanism, completely flat trackpad, and zero-gap Retina Display for a super-premium and compact notebook.

The new USB Type-C connector is the singular port that provides power, connectivity to USB, and video out via VGA or HDMI. Adapters are a necessity if you want to connect a camera, printer, scanner, or any wired device to the MacBook. It is frustrating right now, but a bold declaration of where we're headed ports-wise.

SPEED SAYS

The new Apple MacBook brings the all-day portability of the iPad and the ease of use of the MacBook Air into one singular device. This is the most beautiful notebook in the market right now and for Mac loyalists, the ultimate portable productivity device.

GEEK METER

Sadly, the 420p FaceTime camera feels like an afterthought and has poorer quality than a 5-year-old smartphone's camera. Heavy video camera users would need to consider an external option, which could be a challenge with the singular USB Type-C port.

With a 2304 x 1440 resolution, 178-degree viewing angle, and new 16:10 aspect ratio, the 12-inch Retina Display on this MacBook is sublime and detailed. It also supports 1440 x 900, 1280 x 800, and 1024 x 640 resolutions.

OS X Yosemite is refined and user-focused. With the Handoff and Continuity features, the MacBook automatically uses a paired iPhone's data, so it is always connected and super portable. The AirDrop feature, which allows Macs and iOS devices to send files to each other, becomes paramount since the MacBook only has one damn port.

It's easy to dismiss the new Intel Core M processor (running at 1.1GHz dual-core Intel Core M processor Turbo Boost up to 2.4GHz with 4MB shared L3 cache) as a mobile processor, but it manages to run most OS X Yosemite apps without any issue, thanks in part to the 8GB RAM and fast SSD drive.

This is a triumph in keyboard design. The MacBook's keys are 17 percent larger with a deeper curvature that better fits human fingers. The keyboard boasts a more even butterfly keyboard design as well as precision backlighting that makes it easier and more efficient to use.

With a new terraced design and a tiny fanless motherboard, the MacBook's interior is crammed full of batteries. As a result, the MacBook easily gives nine hours of mixed use with Wi-Fi and Bluetooth turned on. This rivals the 11-inch MacBook Air, which even has a lower-resolution display.

PRODUCT TEST NO. 1660

Baby, be mine

MYPHONE Rio 2

Review by ARITHA ZEL ZALAMEA

THE NUMBERS

Display
5-inch IPS HD display, 294ppi
OS
Android 5.0 Lollipop
CPU
1.3GHz quad-core ARM Cortex-A7 CPU
Memory
8GB internal, microSD up to 64GB
Camera
8MP rear, 5MP front
Connectivity
Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB 2.0
Price
P5,499

The MyPhone Rio 2 is one of the first smartphones from a local brand to run a pure version of Android Lollipop, the latest version of Google's mobile OS.

This comes hot off the heels of the Android One smartphone the MyPhone Uno. Compared with that, the Rio 2 boasts slightly better specs.

I've always been impressed with the build quality of MyPhone-branded hardware, and this continues on the Rio 2. The device feels solid in the hand for the price at which it is offered. But I am particularly peeved by the felt-like textured back.

Thanks to Android Lollipop, the Rio 2 operates smoothly. Apps launch quickly, and switching between several open apps is a breeze.

The cameras both perform well. The rear-facing camera is fast to find its focus and adjust exposure. Natural lighting indoors is enough to produce crisp images. Even the front-facing camera does well for itself, taking detailed and well-lit photos.

SPEED SAYS

Sporting the MyPhone brand, the Rio 2 is expectedly well-built. The smartphone does well to leave Android Lollipop untouched, delivering buttery smooth performance. Marry these two and you get a device that's definitely worth more than what you're paying for it.

GEEK METER

PRODUCT TEST NO. 1661

Eternal bond

XIAOMI Mi Band

Review by ARITHA ZEL ZALAMEA

THE NUMBERS

Battery
30 days standby time
Features
Fitness monitor, sleep tracker, smart alarm, water resistant (IP67)
Price
P550

Xiaomi is expanding its product reach anywhere and everywhere it can, and with the release of the Mi Band, the company comes in competition with the multitude of activity trackers already in the market.

The Mi Band is refreshingly inconspicuous, making it easy to wear every day. The band comes in smooth rubber and functions as a holster for the actual device, which can be popped out to be charged (battery life lasts for months) or transferred to another band; the Mi Band is available in various colors.

It pairs with the free app Mi Fit (available in English on Google Play and Apple Appstore) via Bluetooth just for reading the device. Aside from counting how many steps you've supposedly taken, the Mi Band also monitors your amount of light and deep sleep, which is my favorite feature. I always check how many hours I've slept and how many hours I was in deep sleep. I am happy to report that I get a lot of the latter.

What works against the Mi Band is its accuracy. Strapped around my wrist, it counts my arm sways as steps. Sleep monitoring is also fooled into believing you're asleep when you leave the band on the table at night. It also doesn't count your sleep during the day.

SPEED SAYS

Using the Mi Band for over a month leaves me attached to the activity tracker. It isn't accurate but, for the price, provides enough information to make using it as an everyday accessory worthwhile.

GEEK METER

BAIC

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PRODUCT TEST NO. 1662

THE **NUMBERS**

Features
Hands-free option, Bluetooth 4.0 connectivity up to 10m, multipoint technology, status alert, 6hr talk time, 7 days standby time, triple-mic wind + noise canceling
Price
$129.99

New horizons

PLANTRONICS Voyager Edge

Review by GADJO CARDENAS SEVILLA

Innovation in Bluetooth headsets may seem to have hit a wall, but the Plantronics Voyager Edge brings a lot of innovation and style to one of the most enduring wearable devices yet.

Plantronics ensured that battery life is paramount when it went and created the Voyager Edge, which comes with a charging case that enables up to 16 hours of talk time (up to 6 hours without case).

The Voyager Edge is really the ultimate Bluetooth headset for the smartphone age. When a call comes in, you can hear the caller's name announced; just say "Answer" to take the call.

The headset has a tap and pair functionality with NFC-enabled smartphones and can be used to control voice assistants such as Siri, Google Now, and Cortana.

Sound quality and effective noise isolation features are what really impressed me. The Voyager Edge has three precisely tuned microphones and an enhanced noise canceling feature, optimizing your voice and minimizing noise.

I've also used the Voyager Edge for streaming music, podcasts, and other content while working, and it does a good job at this.

SPEED SAYS

It's hard to get excited about a Bluetooth headset these days, but the Plantronics Voyager Edge brings together functionality, responsive sensors, and great quality. It can be used with smartphones or even for conferencing, making it one of the more versatile noise-canceling headsets I've seen and used.

GEEK METER

PRODUCT TEST NO. 1663

THE **NUMBERS**

Display
4.7-inch 720 x 1280 IPS LCD
OS
Android 4.4.4 KitKat
CPU
1.2GHz Cortex A-53 Qualcomm Snapdragon 410
Memory
8/16GB internal storage, microSD up to 32GB, 1GB RAM
Camera
8MP rear with LED flash, 2MP front
Connectivity
Wi-Fi, WiFi Direct and Hotspot, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB 2.0, GPS, FM
Price
P5,599

Red(emption)

XIAOMI Redmi 2

Review by JOHN SOSMEÑA

Xiaomi delivers again with their Redmi 2, proving that balance in power, prestige, and price can be reached, resulting in a smartphone that's jam-packed with some of 2015's hottest features.

I was very surprised at how this powerful phone weighs. At only 133g, the Redmi 2 already carries a 4.7-inch LCD, Qualcomm Snapdragon chipset, and 1.2GHz quad-core processor.

The 8MP camera with LED flash performs well even in dimly lit rooms. Just for kicks, the 2MP front-facing camera comes with an age detector, a fun feature to play around with friends.

Personally, I wish the Redmi 2 had an official workaround for data transfer from the PC. Unfortunately for us English-speaking users, we'll need to snoop around the forums for an English patch because Xiaomi's PC Suite comes only in Chinese.

SPEED SAYS

The Redmi 2 is generally a good phone to use. At only P5,599, you won't go wrong with having a handy phone like this in your pocket.

GEEK METER

ABS-CBN
DZMM
Jeepney tv
COSUN 名品石业 COSUN FAMOUS STONE
DATEM INCORPORATED
HOUSE
Kingsford Hotel
MAC

PRODUCT TEST NO. 1664

Fantastic 4

BMW 420d Gran Coupe Luxury

Review by MIKE POTENCIANO

THE **NUMBERS**

Engine
2.0L TwinPower Turbo four-cylinder diesel
Transmission
8-speed AT
Power
184hp
Torque
380Nm
Suspension
Independent MacPherson strut front, independent multi-link rear
Brakes
Ventilated disc
Price
P4,290,000

DIMENSIONS
4,638 x 1,825 x 1,377mm, 1,540kg

What's a coupe? The dictionary defines it as a closed-body style two-door automobile—which is why it's a bit head-scratching that BMW calls this four-door a coupe. But the German automaker explains that their 420d Gran Coupe is a consistent extension of the brand's 4 series in that it's sleek and sporty like a two-door, but with the added functionality of a sedan.

The TwinPower Turbo engine is very efficient in building the tremendous torque that pushes the car from 0-100kph in just 7.5 seconds and still attain a claimed combined fuel mileage of 4.2-4.5 liters per 100km.

The Gran Coupe is made for the driver who enjoys sporty runs on highways. It provides very good handling, and I cannot find the limit of adhesion. This is mainly due to the great tires fitted on it and BMW's electronic driving aids.

The air breathers behind the front wheels help with reducing drag, while the big wheel arches at the back give the car a commanding presence.

The familiar double-kidney grille, dual round headlights, large lower air intake, and low hood line of the two-door Coupe is carried over to the Gran Coupe. Viewed from the front, this car is definitely a looker and a head-turner.

The 8-speed auto transmission is well-matched to the engine that you will find hardly any fault with it. The ratios are well-proportioned and shifts are seamless and instantaneous.

By employing aluminum front calipers, the heat generated by hard braking is dissipated faster and makes you more confident in mountainous roads. Add BMW's Dynamic Stability Control, which brakes the inner wheels to control the slide, and you have a system that really enhances the driving experience.

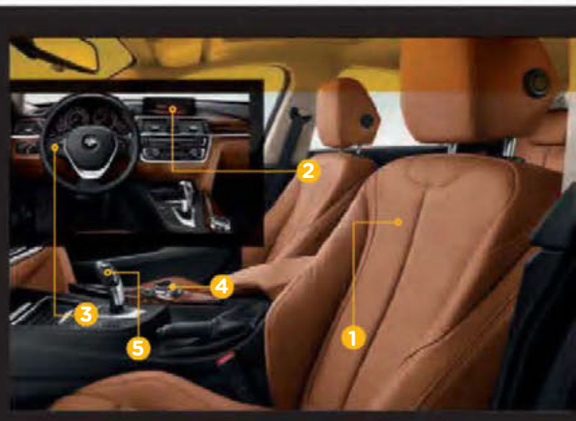
SPEED SAYS

The combination of a beautifully designed body, a very efficient and powerful diesel engine, and a well-sorted out chassis makes the BMW 420d Gran Coupe Luxury a joy to drive.

GEEK METER

INTERIOR

1. The interior is fitted with supple leather that feels nice to the touch. The seats are very comfortable; the supports on the side, thighs, and head are all in the right places. The rear seats can accommodate three adults with space to spare.
2. BMW splurged on the infotainment with a 6.5" LCD display in the center to show the latest iDrive system, radio/video controls, settings for driving aids, and a lot more.
3. The Harman Kardon sound system is one of the finest audio setup I've heard in a car.
4. The iDrive Controller is easy to use but can be intimidating for non-techie drivers.
5. My only concern with the ergonomics of this car is the placement of the electronic parking brake on top of the shifter. I have accidentally turned it on a couple of times when I rest my hand on the shifter in traffic.



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Arrested development

BATTLEFIELD HARDLINE

Review by ERIK PAOLO ESCUETA

PlayStation 3 REVIEWED

In an attempt to deviate from the recent trend of first-person shooters exploring modern and futuristic military warfare, *Battlefield Hardline* takes the franchise into a bold (and relatively controversial) direction into today's world of law enforcement. But is the common everyday street warfare of *Hardline* more than enough to keep gamers hooked?

VITAL STATS

Platforms
PlayStation 4, PlayStation 3, Xbox One, Xbox 360, Windows
Developer
Visceral Games
Publisher
Electronic Arts
No. of Players
1 Player Offline, 2-24 Players Online
Official Site
www.battlefield.com/hardline

Online, that's a definite yes, thanks to some fun objective-based game modes that explore the myriad ways of pitting cops versus criminals. Offline, however, it's not as convincing. Even with some rather interesting gameplay mechanics that emphasize pacification over annihilation, a brief and predictable plot coupled with less than compelling replay incentives translate to an underwhelming experience that questions whether *Hardline* is worth its asking price.

WRONG SIDE OF THE LAW

The offline single-player campaign puts you in the shoes of Miami detective Nicholas Mendoza, and how he journeys from being a trustworthy cop to becoming another criminal running from the law. Obviously, it's as cookie-cutter as plotlines can get if you've watched a lot of action movies or cop shows, with nothing much to keep you interested as far as plot twists go.

To be fair, the episodic presentation and adequate voice-acting performances give some breathing room for decent story development, but only so much. Not even a star-studded cast can breathe life into fictional characters designed to be one-dimensional from the get-go.

Probably the biggest downside to *Hardline*'s solo campaign is its lack of depth. It offers some decent incentive by collecting evidence and arresting criminals with warrants on the way as you move from one linear plot point to the next. However, even with the distractions, you can plow through the game in literally a day; no exaggeration. It's a very linear journey that feels more like going through the motions, and given that it's the only offline mode available, it feels even more like a lazy execution.

SHOW ME YOUR BADGE

But there is some retribution to be found in the combat gameplay. As a first-time player of a *Battlefield* game, I found the shooting to be quite precise and solid, especially where shot placement was concerned. Headshots are lethal here, more so than shots to the body or limbs (as rightly so), and everything feels nicely balanced between weapon loadouts. I suppose if there was a con to the controls, it would be when driving the many vehicles at your disposal. But this is more of a minor nitpick.

Aside from the usual shooting mechanics, *Hardline*'s solo campaign mode incorporates a nifty stealth system that focuses on making arrests instead of wiping all the bad guys out. It's not exactly innovative, but the use of your police badge to force a baddie into dropping their guns and cuffing them is just plain entertaining even if it is awfully unrealistic. That said, if you're looking for an experience that's more authentic than Hollywood, this is not the game for you.

PLAYING COPS AND ROBBERS

While the offline single-player might be a hard sell, *Hardline*'s online multiplayer is a whole different ball game. Honestly, *Hardline* really feels like it was built solely for the multiplayer experience, with a total of seven modes available to keep you amused and with varying degrees of body counts. Massive team modes like Heist are intense battles of capture the flag (or should we say, capture the vault), necessitating tactics with your squads, which are subteams that you form on the fly.

On the other hand, small-scale modes like Crosshair, where teams exchange attempts to either kill or escort a VIP, add a new layer of difficulty by disallowing respawning in each round. Each mode puts something new on the table, providing some welcome variety to the mix.

On a technical level, the connectivity performance is pretty impressive. Even on a moderate wireless connection I could hardly feel any lag, and the framerate never suffered one bit either. I never once got dropped off a match server as well. On this front, it looks like *Hardline* has any and all possible connectivity concerns covered.

POLICE ACADEMY

Multiplayer also offers some depth to the running and gunning with customizable role-based character classes. The classes essentially dictate your weapon loadout and also provide role-specific gear to play around with. Enforcers, for example, can use health kits to heal other teammates and work well from a moderate distance with their assault rifles. Professionals, on the other hand, are snipers who excel in planting traps and cameras for displaying enemy intel on your team minimap.

Picking the right class for the right event is definitely satisfying to say the least, especially with friends in tow. You'll also want to improve your classes by ranking up and unlocking more gear, which you buy with in-game cash earned by scoring points as you play. You can also earn and purchase items called Battlepacks, which give random rewards depending on their specific value, making regular play even more gratifying for the incentives.

PROS
- solid shooting and combat gameplay
- interesting stealth mechanics in solo campaign
- excellent and diverse multiplayer modes
- lots of stuff to unlock in online multiplayer

CONS
- solo campaign story is predictable, linear and short
- lack of realism in story might be off-putting for some
- no other offline modes available aside from story mode
- not enough replay incentive outside of online multiplayer

SPEED SAYS

Battlefield Hardline is difficult to put down when engaged in its online multiplayer, thanks to the reasonably diverse modes on hand and the efficient depth in customizing your online agent. But as for single-player options, all you have is the story campaign. The game delivers a unique approach to playing cop, but everything else surrounding it is marred by subpar execution and a dull narrative that could have used a bit more time at the drawing board. Unless you plan on enforcing and/or breaking the law online, there are other shooters around with better offline experiences to suit the soloist's palate.

GEEK METER

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SPEED CELEBRATES 12TH ANNIVERSARY,

HOLDS MAGAZINE SIGNING WITH COVER GIRL MARIAN RIVERA

Photos **KRISTINE BARREIRO**

Photo by **MELAI BALITAAN**

IT WAS A THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION LIKE NO OTHER.

To mark its 12th year in print and give thanks to its loyal readers, clients, partners, and friends, *Speed* held a magazine signing event with May 2015 cover girl Marian Rivera Gracia-Dantes at Powerbooks Greenbelt 4 last May 8. *Speed* readers and Marian Rivera fans started queuing outside the venue at 9 a.m.—hours before the scheduled 4 p.m. event.

Photo by **ANTONIO JOSE GALAURAN**

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Speed's 12th anniversary issue features Marian Rivera on the cover, the Primetime Queen's fourth with the magazine. The special autograph signing was attended by hundreds of readers and fans, VIPs, select members of the media, and *Speed*'s industry partners. DJ Ingrid Nieto of Mellow 94.7 hosted the event.

"As a publication that champions technology and innovation, *Speed*, now on its 12th year, will continue to work hard to educate, inform, and entertain our readers with our high-quality news, features, and reviews about the tech and gadgets that make our lives better," remarked Katrina Rivere-Diga, *Speed*'s editor-in-chief.

Photo by **ANTONIO JOSE GALAURAN**

Photo by **ANTONIO JOSE GALAURAN**

Photo by **ANTONIO JOSE GALAURAN**

The multitude of *Speed* readers who bought their copies of the May 2015 issue at Powerbooks Greenbelt 4 on the same day lined up to get their magazines signed by Marian Rivera. The lucky readers also received a loot bag, which included *Speed*'s sought-after Geek shirt.

Photo by **MELAI BALITAAN**

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As part of the festivity, *Speed* also raffled off 12 special prizes to everyone who attended the event. The prizes included: Aedle VK1 headphones, Columbia apparel, AT and Le Power powerbanks, timepieces from Bench and Veloci, AT Boom Box Vibration Speaker, and GCs from Arena, Nautica, K-Swiss, and David's Salon.

Speed's 12th anniversary event and magazine signing was made possible by Powerbooks. Sponsors included Airborne Technologies, Planet Sports (Nautica, K-Swiss, and Arena), Power Mac Center, Bench Time, Asprey, Veloci, Pismo Digital Lifestyle, Columbia Sportswear, and Globaltronics.

R.O.X. celebrates the best of the outdoors

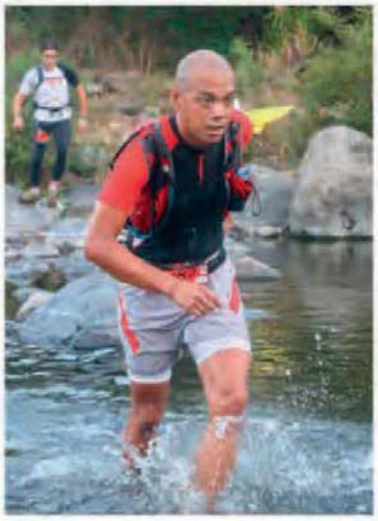
OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS PARTICIPATED IN COMPETITIONS, GAMES, AND CHALLENGES AS R.O.X. HELD ITS OUTDOOR FESTIVAL LAST APRIL 18-19 AT BONIFACIO HIGH STREET, TAGUIG. This event marked the culmination of R.O.X.'s Get Outside campaign, which encourages people to turn to a life of non-stop adventure.

One of the event's biggest features was the Zero Gravity Boulder Competition, sponsored by PowerUp in partnership with the Sport Climbing Association of the Philippines, Inc., where bouldering champions all over the country competed for the top title and a round-trip ticket for two to Kota Kinabalu.

Mountain Hardwear's Last Man Standing challenge, on the other hand, had participants stay on each of their 3-foot columns for almost five hours, enduring various physical challenges under the heat of the sun. The winner took home a complete set of Mountain Hardwear gear, plus an all-expense paid trip to Coron, courtesy of Cebu Pacific Air and The Funny Lion Inn.

Other activities included Fox's Pump Up the Track Challenge, The North Face's Mountain Athletics Challenge, Columbia's Trying Stuff Challenge, Salomon's Outrun the Road Challenge, Strider's competition for kids, and other high-octane pursuits.

There were also booths, talks, and workshops, as well as performances by Lucille and Indio I and big screen film viewings.



salomon holds adrenaline-filled X-Trail Pilipinas run

NEARLY 1,500 TRAIL RUNNERS TESTED THEIR METTLE LAST APRIL 25 AT THE SALOMON X-TRAIL PILIPINAS 2015 IN ANVAYA COVE IN MORONG, BATAAN. NEW TRAIL ROUTES WERE SPECIALLY CREATED FOR THIS EVENT. The runners braved steep technical areas, loose rocks, and thick foliage, but were rewarded with the beautiful scenery of this Ayala Land Premier leisure development.

The Salomon X-Trail Run is a series of trail running events held in Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, and the Philippines.

This year's Salomon X-Trail Run offered four distances: 6k and 12k road to trail, and 24k and 32k mountain run.

The Salomon X-Trail Pilipinas 2015 is in cooperation with AXN & R.O.X., with official venue partner Anvaya Cove, an Ayala Land Premier property. This event is also sponsored by Honey Stinger, Suunto, Gatorade, Sea to Summit, Sudeco, Otterbox, Goal Zero, Eco x Gear, Nalgene, and the Primer Group of Companies.

WET SHOOTERS

Waterproof cameras that let you see beneath the surface

Words JOHN SOSMEÑA

LET'S FACE FACTS HERE FOR A MOMENT: WE ALL LOVE A GOOD ACTION-PACKED WATER ADVENTURE ONCE IN A WHILE. AND WE WISH TO RELIVE THOSE CRUCIAL MOMENTS OF FUN AND FEAR JUST LIKE YESTERDAY. BUT HOW? IF YOU THINK OL' H_2O'S GONNA STOP YOU FROM CAPTURING WET AND WILD SHENANIGANS, YOU BETTER READ THIS BEFORE YOU START PACKING. AN EAST WIND IS COMING, AND IT'S COMING IN SIX DIFFERENT FORMS OF KICKASS UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY.

When you take a first look at the AW130, you'd think right away that this thing's built to last, easily making it the go-to gear for adventurers and travelers.

Entering the fray with a 16-megapixel CMOS sensor, this shooter can take crisp shots with the vibrant colors Nikon is known for. Take advantage of the 1080p HD video recording with Stereo Sound to appreciate all the undersea blobbing and globbing as if you're still there.

Nikon Coolpix AW130

Canon PowerShot D30

Things get a lot more interesting when you look underneath. A group photo six feet underwater is cool, just like Canon's D30. Waterproof up to 25 meters, this bad boy can take 12.1-megapixel shots and record 1080p HD videos at 24fps. The 25mm wide-angle lens zooms in at a maximum of 5x.

Thanks to Canon DIGIC 4's smart IS auto, the PowerShot D30 adjusts to diving and snorkeling photographic conditions, so you won't have to worry about images of your favorite sea critters coming out all dark and blurry.

Ricoh
WG-5 GPS

Ricoh loves to take conventions out of the box, and it's no different with this snazzy-looking camera. The WG-5 GPS makes your snorkeling a little more stylish without scrimping on quality.

Dive with it down to 14m under the sea and feel confident with the WG-5 GPS' ability to withstand up to 100kg force, preventing underwater pressure from interfering with your shots.

The 16MP sensor coupled with the large f/2 aperture gives you clear images. And with up to 1cm of macro focus, you can get up close and personal to show off some wet detail.

Ricoh WG-M1

Just when you thought Ricoh has had its fair share of the unconventional, it comes out with the WG-M1, which takes underwater cameras to a completely different level. Following a sleek, airtight hybrid design, this thing of curiosity feels like a flashlight in your hand. With a sure grip, the 14MP CMOS sensor, 1080p HD video recording, and 160-degree f/2.8 wide-angle lens, all you need to worry about is taking your girlfriend's underwater portrait before she runs out of breath.

/SpeedMagazinePH @SpeedMagazine @SpeedMagazine

If you're the overly and overtly sporty, you'd love to get your hands on the FinePix XP80. Its rugged design gives you a preview of the camera's uncompromising power under the hood.

Expect nothing but luster and leverage when you take the FinePix XP80 out for a spin on your next beach adventure. Spewing out 16MP still images and 1080p HD videos, the FinePix XP80 impresses with its photography prowess too.

Fujifilm FinePix XP80

Olympus TG-4

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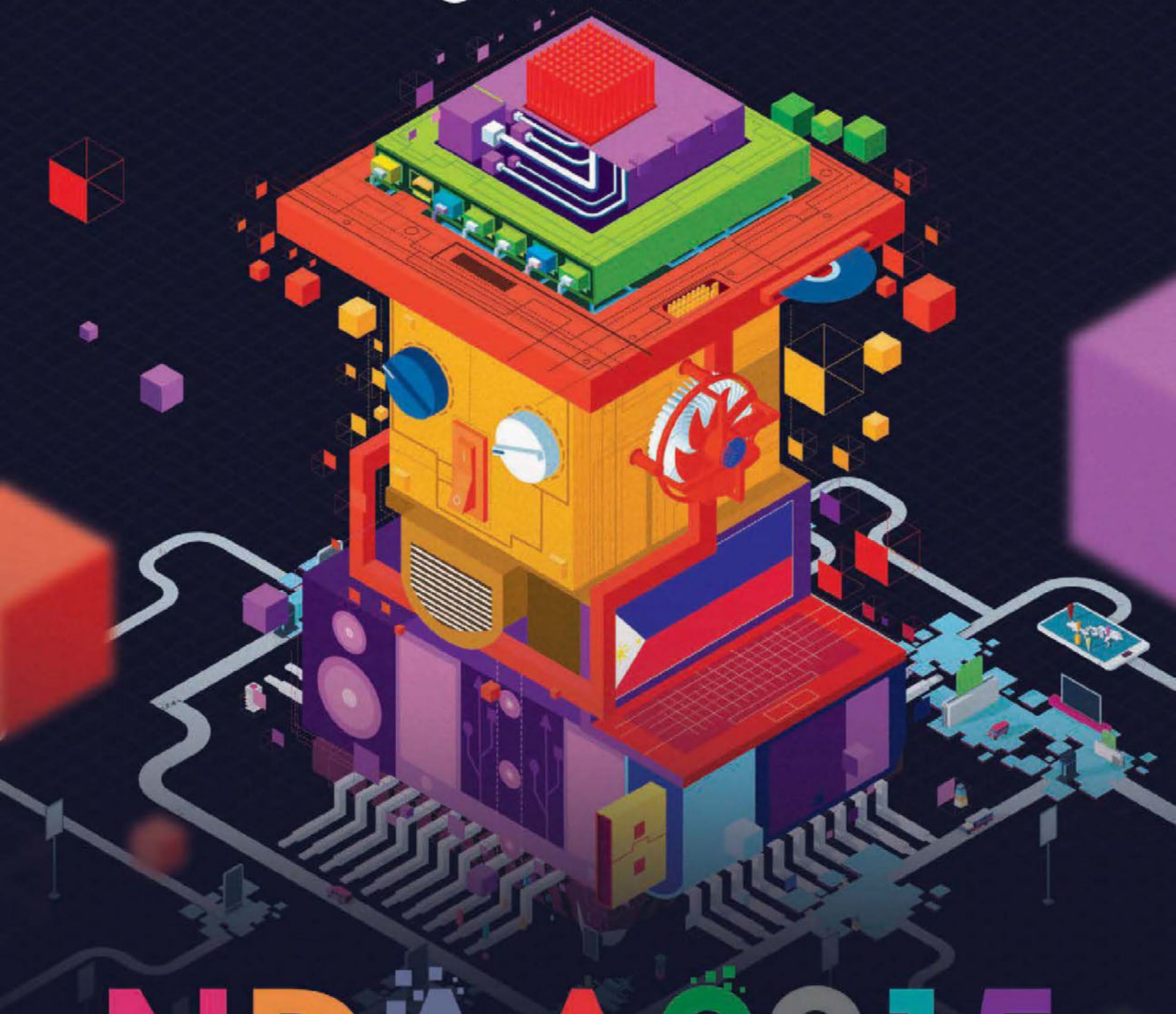

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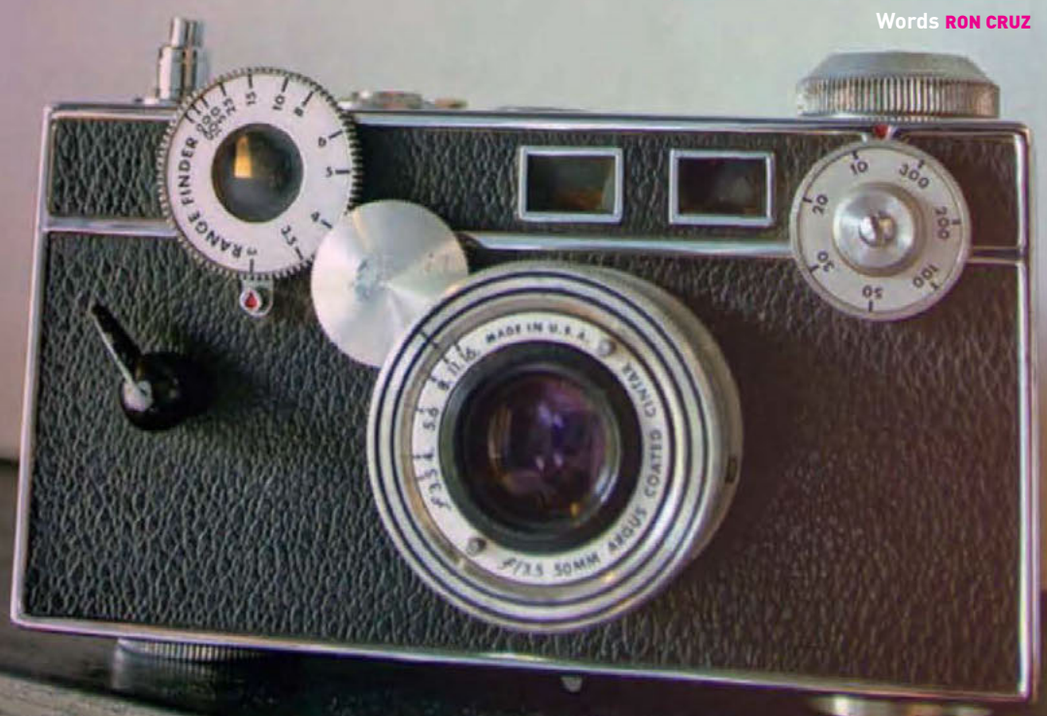
Oh, SHOOT!

DIG INTO THE DIGITAL TIMES—AND BEYOND

Words RON CRUZ



IT IS HARD TO IMAGINE THAT THE FIRST EVER DIGITAL CAMERA RECENTLY CELEBRATED ITS 40TH BIRTHDAY. FROM THE GROUNDBREAKING INTRODUCTION BACK IN 1975, ELECTRONIC CAMERAS FOREVER CHANGED THE LANDSCAPE OF PHOTOGRAPHY AND ARE NOT SHOWING ANY SIGNS OF SLOWING DOWN.

www.123rf.com/profile_byebyeblue

It seems only yesterday when we eagerly waited in anticipation the rolls we had developed in our friendly neighborhood photo lab. Nowadays, you can print photos in less than 5 minutes with portable handheld devices.

Times are a-changin'. Photography today is a completely different ball game from what it was just a few years ago. Are you equipped enough to go with the changing of the guard?

BIRTH OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

The granddaddy of all digital cameras was created for Eastman Kodak by engineer Steve Sasson. The contraption cobbled together a lot of different parts, which resulted in a massive 8-pound device with a 100 x 100-pixel sensor at its heart.

A photograph, which was in black and white, took at least 23 seconds to create. To view the images, the data had to read from a digital cassette tape tethered to a television set. It's really hard to imagine having a 0.01-megapixel camera, but we all had to start somewhere, right?

Little did Sasson know that his invention would herald a technological revolution. Over the course of the years, new innovations and breakthroughs that would ultimately lead to where we are now slowly fell into place.

From 1975's prototype, there came 1988's Fuji Fujix, which had the first removable memory card, 1991's Kodak DCS with the first DSLR, 1994's Kodak/AP NC2000 DSLR designed for photojournalists and which retailed for $17,950, 1995's Casio QV-10 with the first LCD that could play back images and function as a viewfinder, and 1999's Nikon D1, which was the first DSLR body designed entirely from scratch by a single manufacturer. (The D1 also ushered in the age of affordable professional cameras, being sold for around $5,000 which was half of what other cameras in the market cost during that time.)

Combining all of these innovations, cameras have become better, cheaper, and smaller. It really is surprising and awe-inspiring just how much changed in such a short time span.

We consumers can only stand back and watch as the whole digital photography revolution unfolded before our very eyes. But with professional photographers—people whose literal blood, sweat, and tears went into the darkroom one photo at a time—it was a different matter altogether. They were the ones who needed to adjust the most.

Of course, some refused to budge at the start, thinking that it was all a fad. But if you don't get with the times, you'll get washed away with the tide. A few stragglers still exist, but they're more the exception rather than the norm.

HIGH TIMES WITH ISO

One of the best advantages that digital has over analog is the flexibility of changing ISOs. With film, you're stuck with the speed of the roll you have loaded. Moreover, that figure is usually low.

With the brand spanking new sensors of cameras today, you can change your ISO from as low as 50 to as high as 25,600 with a flick of a switch. I really wouldn't use the latter because it's a grainy mess, but in dire situations, it's a nice feature to have and would enable you to get an otherwise impossible shot.

The hard part of being a photographer today is that everyone has a digital camera. Before, you're the only one taking shots, but nowadays, you have to jones for position. You have to push, shove, and find your way among overly excited guests to get the shot you need. The problem is that you have a contract with your client to get the shot while the other people are under no pressure to deliver. You see this predicament the most at weddings, as some photographers are boxed out by all the guests who brought their own cameras. When you miss a pivotal moment, you'll still be the one to blame.

ANALOG SCHMANALOG

Generally speaking, photography has become easier with the advent of digital technology. Don't get me wrong, though. Everything has tradeoffs and there are some things with film and analog that digital simply can't replicate.

The most noticeable difference with the jump from analog to digital is film. Back then, you would have to have a nice stock of films with different ISO levels and color balance. You'd need a Polaroid back as well, so that your art director can approve your test shots before you actually start the shoot. Photography assistants actually stood by on the ready to switch over films once you finish a roll.

Nowadays, cameras are connected via Wi-Fi and the shots go directly to a laptop so you, the art director, and even the client can check every conceivable detail of the images the moment they're taken.

Eastman Kodak Engineer Steve Sasson

DEVALUATION OF THE CRAFT

On a related note, another problem that photographers of today face is that since practically everyone has a camera, some clients see fit to devalue work. You see this the most at malls and photo shops where they charge such a low rate for events and wedding photography that it sounds like a joke. There is no craft or skill involved. You just have to get at least 300 shots to reach your quota and call it a day. For professionals, this is the unfortunate price to pay as cameras now are cheap and affordable, so everyone has access to it.

Curiously enough, now that we have access to all the convenience and technological marvels associated with digital photography, there's resurgence and even movements to go back to basics and go analog. You can owe this to hipsters wanting to use all things old school, but we feel there's a bit more to it than just that.

With how everything is quick and easy with digital, going back to your roots with film makes you calm and composed. As opposed to having over a thousand possible shots inside your camera, you're limited to just 36 frames or even less. Knowing that each frame is priceless—both literally and figuratively (have you seen the exorbitant prices of film nowadays?)—your shot selection and framing is much more thought out. You can't just go clicking guns blazing and chimp away at the LCD checking if you got the shot you wanted.

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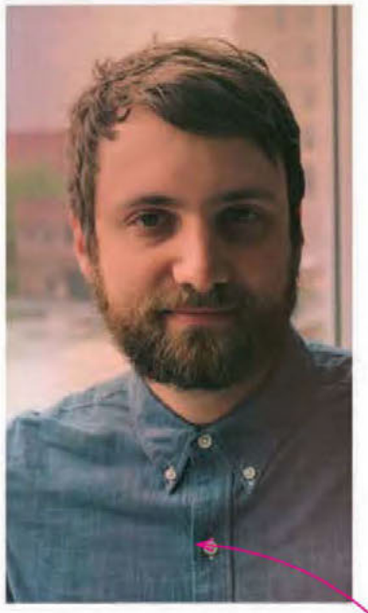

PICKUP TRUCK OR SPORTS CAR?

For me, the best analogy to use with digital and analog photography is cars. Digital would be your pickup truck, the workhorse that gets the job done day after day, while shooting with film is akin to Sunday driving with a classic sports car. While both take you from point A to point B, their uses are fundamentally different.

If your job depended on it, you'll use digital for its advances in technology and its convenience. For "me time," personal projects, or times you want to find yourself, the tranquility and serenity inherent in shooting with film prevails. It may cost more and be clunky at times, but it's the spirit behind it that's important.

After all that's been said and done, how exactly does a photographer survive in today's digital climate? The answer is all in one word: adaptation.

Natural selection is a real thing. It's either you adapt, get with the times, or get stuck living in the past. While some of your loyal clients might stick with you, there will come a point where they'll require something you can't provide.

Sooner or later, you'll have to adapt. We all do. If VHS and Laser Discs are any indication, technology always has a way of catching up to you whether you like it or not.

ARTFUL MARKETING

One thing you have to remember, too, is that it's not all about photography. These days, your internet presence is as or even more important than your photographic skills. Even if you're a genius at photography but can't market yourself, you're stuck.

Relevance is the name of the game. If you can't be found online, then for all intents and purposes, you don't exist.

Some international photographers like Chase Jarvis and Vincent Laforet were ahead of the curve with this one, cultivating a loyal fanbase and generating new clients through the sheer power of social media.

There's also the case of Chris Ozer, an amateur photographer who mainly posted on Instagram. Through the app, he was able to ignite his passion and find his calling. Now, he's a professional photographer with clients such as Cole Haan, Evernote, Facebook, Nike, and Samsung, just to name a few.

EXCITING FUTURE

After adaptation, the obvious route ahead is evolution. As much as has happened in the last 40 years, there's still so much in store for photography's new frontier. If you think about it, your phone's built-in camera is way better than a lot of the digital cameras of yesteryear.

The future of photography, contrary to popular belief, is very exciting and has a lot of room for growth. Just in the past few years, we went from fighting over how many megapixels one's camera has to using a DSLR as a fashion accessory, Instagramming one's breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and shooting selfies from every imaginable angle.

What's next?

ATTACK OF THE DRONES

Words **RON CRUZ**

THE USE OF DRONE CAMERAS HAS BEEN ALL THE RAGE LATELY. THANKS TO MODERN ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY, WE'RE NOW SEEING A COMPLETELY NEW PERSPECTIVE AND LITERAL BIRD'S EYE VIEW ON THINGS.

It's a fun way of capturing precious and unforgettable moments like weddings and big events. Capturing that big first kiss from above? Glorious! Couple this with the fact that personal drones don't dent the budget that much, and you've got a technological revolution in your hands.

FLIPSIDE: PRIVACY

As with all things, however, there is a flipside. The elephant in the room with regard to unmanned remote-controlled aircraft is the issue of privacy.

Controlling a drone camera to spy or stalk someone has alarmingly become a reality. One of the well-known victims of this high-tech invasion of privacy is celebrity Miley Cyrus. The actress took to Instagram and posted a video of a paparazzi drone flying overhead and circling her house. You can only imagine how hard it is for celebrities to have no respite and safe haven from nosy paparazzo.

Since the cost barrier of drones aren't that high, even regular people like you and me aren't immune. More and more cases of drones spying on seemingly random neighborhoods are cropping up.

You aren't safe from prying eyes anymore even in the solitude of your home. Even if you're on the top floor of your house, as long as there's an open window, a drone can creep on you or members of your family.

It's a dire way of looking at things, but that's reality. From being used in warfare to delivering Amazon packages and stalking people, drones sure have come a long way.

FLYING IN THE GRAY

The issue of privacy with regard to unmanned aircraft has become a hotly debated topic in the United States. There's the scenario where you walk inside a person's property, and you'll be cited for trespassing, but when you fly a drone, you're in the clear. After all, the Supreme Court declared that "the air is a public highway" back in 1946.

There are a lot of legal gray areas involved with the use of drone cameras because it is such a new innovation. Will you consider the area above your neighbor's lawn or near their window a public space? I think not.

The public outrage against the use of drone cameras has caused so many furors that California's invasion of privacy law has been amended to ban the use of the unmanned remote-controlled aircraft. You can call it a knee-jerk reaction, but the most important (and interesting) thing is that it sets a precedent.

PHILIPPINE SKIES

Looking at the whole privacy issue on a local perspective, we're pretty safe. What we have as paparazzo aren't anywhere near what Hollywood celebrities put up with on a daily basis. Stalkers aren't that common, too—probably because we as a people are more well-adjusted. Kidding aside, as drones get cheaper, the higher the chance it falls in the hands of unsavory characters.

INSTRUMENT OF GOOD

One thing you have to remember is that drone cameras and unmanned aerial systems are just tools—incredibly amazing and innovative tools, but tools nonetheless. They have the potential to help in doing great things, but also inherently possess the power to invade privacy.

Special legislation to govern drone use isn't really required. All you need is common sense and a hint of *delicadeza*.

Entourage

From TV screen to silver screen

Words **CARMELA MARAAN FERNANDO**

OPENS June 17

If you had religiously followed the success of the glamourous TV series, you'll know where the guys of *Entourage* pick up from where they left off their story this summer. Only this time, it's on the big screen. And also this time, chairman and CEO of Time Warner Ari Gold (Jeremy Piven) tries to make it in the big league by working with movie star buddy Vincent Chase (Adrian Grenier) in his 100 million-dollar directorial debut.

The snag is, Vince goes $15 million over budget.

Together with their posse Eric (Kevin Connolly), Turtle (Jerry Ferrara), and Drama (Kevin Dillon), Vince and Ari try to save the movie project titled *Hyde*, a version of the Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde story. If they fail, their 15 minutes of success in Tinsel Town are up.

BUZZ FEED

In *Entourage*, you'll get a rush from seeing the boys try to nail their first-ever high-stakes blockbuster film.

At the same time, Eric's producing the film, Vince is trying to salvage his rocky relationship with fiancée Sophia (Alice Eve), while Drama's trying to revive his own acting career, and Ari's legendary temper continues to erupt here and there as he works to preserve his name and his family's quietly lavish life back in Italy. Only Turtle still seems to have everything going for him as a millionaire.

Entourage is about art as an imitation of life imitating art. It's a movie about a movie that was taken from a TV show about the movie industry.

Since this story revolves around the glitzy biz, expect to see plenty of celebrity cameos as themselves: Jessica Alba, Mark Wahlberg, Mike Tyson, Gary Busey, Bob Saget, Liam Neeson, Pharrell, Andrew Dice Clay, Kelsey Grammer, George Takei, Warren Buffett, Armie Hammer, and Ronda Rousey to name a few. There's also a lot of eye candy, boys and girls alike, for all to enjoy.

If you haven't watched the TV series in its entirety or at all, don't worry about missing out. Writer and director Doug Ellin explains, "I've taken a lot of time to make it that if you've never seen the show, you can turn on this movie and you'll know this is a movie about a movie star and his friends. Quickly, you'll know the characters and then you'll follow the story, I hope. That's the plan."

At the same time, there are still some references to the TV show that diehard fans can enjoy in the movie.

Expect to experience the same slick and sometimes sleazy Hollywood vibe in this fast-paced and fiery glimpse into the star-studded life filled with high rollers and hot bodies. You'll get a rush alright—this time from seeing the boys try to nail their first-ever high-stakes blockbuster film. And naturally, we're hoping that *Entourage* turns out to be one.

Ronda Rousey cameos as herself in the star-studded *Entourage*.

Jurassic World

OPENS June 10

Take a hint,

guys: maybe those raptors just want to be left alone to party like it's 1993.

That was when Isla Nublar's theme park got left behind with plenty of room for expansion in *Jurassic Park*, and now it comes back to life in Colin Trevorrow's *Jurassic World*. The question is, is the audience still biting?

We hope so. With the inclusion of the ruggedly comedic star (lord) Chris Pratt, we just might experience fresh action in this otherwise four times-remade tale of man vs. beast.

In the movie, the park's revenues have gradually been flagging for the past 10 years, so to keep the place open, a new attraction is added to the renovated Jurassic World. But because humans tend to come up with half-assed logistics, the plan ultimately fails and everything goes haywire—again—endangering the island's human visitors as well as the prehistoric residents.

It's a classic plot with an ending that you're likely to predict. The fun lies in how it happens. And if you're a dinosaur enthusiast or expert, don't expect to see feathers on the legendary monsters either.

Jurassic World also stars Judy Greer, Bryce Dallas Howard, Vincent D'Onofrio, and BD Wong.

THE WATER DIVINER

OPENS June 24

It's common to see war epics such as this, but *The Water Diviner* effectively manages to balance a personal struggle with a broader commentary on the ills of warfare, gripping both your heart and intellect with equal fervor.

Set during World War I, the movie follows the story of Joshua Connor (Russell Crowe), an Australian farmer who presumably lost his three sons in the Battle of Gallipoli. After another tragedy strikes, he sets off for Turkey to find his sons' remains and bring them back home. What he finds instead gives him greater closure.

He also possesses the ability to divine water. That is, to sense the presence of underground water sources where well can be dug. This proves to be especially useful as he braves the war-torn battlegrounds in search of his family.

The parallelism is unmistakable: Connor finds water in barren soil and finds hope after personal devastation.

The Water Diviner is Russell Crowe's first directorial project, where he somewhat tones down his usually forceful persona into a softer, more relatable character. It also stars Olga Kurylenko, Yilmaz Erdogan, Jacqueline McKenzie, Cem Yilmaz, and Jai Courtney.

This movie is exclusive to Ayala Malls Cinemas, so swing by early, or book your tickets in advance.

MAX

OPENS June 26

You know when a movie's about a dog it's meant to melt you into a puddle of feels. And *Max* is no exception: watching the trailer alone gave me morning-after mascara skid marks.

Directed by Boaz Yakin, the movie tells the story of military dog Max, a Belgian Malinois, who suffers from PTSD after his handler Kyle (Robbie Amell) dies in battle in Afghanistan. Max is eventually adopted by Kyle's family, where Kyle's angry younger brother Justin (Josh Wiggins) takes care of him. Together, Max and Justin form an unshakable bond that allows them to heal from their respective wounds.

Unlike your typical best friend movie, *Max* isn't all sunshine and rainbows. Instead, it delves into human and animal distress, and illustrates a more realistic perspective of healing as a continuous process—the pain never goes away, but you learn to cope with it better.

No matter how broken you think you are, there's always another chance to find your purpose and become a better version of yourself, animal and human alike.

Max also stars Lauren Graham, Thomas Haden Church, Luke Kleintank, and Jay Hernandez. Bring your family along, and get ready to bust out the waterworks.

Words CARMELA MARAAN FERNANDO

MIKE POTENCIANO

CELEBRATE MILESTONES

HERE'S THE 2ND PART OF TURBO TIME'S ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION.

If you have not seen the 1st part in *Speed*'s May 2015 Anniversary Issue, you better order a back issue, or download a digital edition from Zinio, Buqo, or Magzter and know more about the good old days of Philippine motorsports.

10+ YEARS

19 years: *Speed TV*. With the clamor by spectators and sponsors for better race coverage, I produced in 1996 the Philippine motorsports TV show called *Speed TV* (a namesake but not connected with this magazine), which aired on PTV4. The show contributed to the revival of the golden age of motor racing when the two race tracks in Subic and Batangas were established, and car manufacturers such as Toyota, Mitsubishi, Nissan, and Proton battled each other in the races. We were inspired by Butch Gamboa's *Motoring Today* and Zal Marte's *Sports Life TV* shows, which were the pioneers in bringing racing into the living rooms of the Filipinos.

17 years: Hyundai-MP Turbo racing team. After our very successful Caltex-Mitsubishi Racing Team partnership in 1994-96, the MP Turbo team partnered with a virtual unknown back then, the Korean-made Hyundai, distributed by Francisco Motors Corporation. We were up against the might of several Japanese car companies like Nissan and Mazdaspeed. After the first year, the organizing body decided to ban special edition models like the Mazdaspeed to stop the escalating cost of racing. This was the time when we really displayed the good handling of the Hyundai Elantra and the superior driving talent of Carlos Anton, clinching the National Production Championship Title in 1998 to 2003. We also secured the Production Team Title through our second car, driven by me. This also helped build racing champions such as Mike Anton, George Apacible, Frank Kovacevic, and Monching and Tonton Gutierrez in the novice and clubman divisions.

12 years: Asian Formula 3. Coming from a dramatic international AF2000 race in 2002, the MP Turbo team, managed by team captain Pepon Marave, was fortunate to be invited to drive for the Shell AF3 team in their Promotions Class. The classic '98 Dallara F3 was one level down from the newer Open Class where Marave raced. We won the first two Promotions Class races in Subic after a very tight battle with my old nemesis Jojo Silverio. Sad to say, after those successful first two races, our engine was detuned to conserve the unit, and the car never performed the same way as before. We also didn't have the budget to do the whole series and quit after just the legs. Marave and Silverio would eventually capture their respective classes, and we were happy we managed to control that 240hp beast of a machine.

12 years: MP Turbo shop catches fire. The MP Turbo team's increasing success in racing was put to a halt when the MP Turbo Race & Rally Shop was burned down in October 2003. The huge fire started in the early morning when the informal settlers' houses, resting right behind the shop and on BLTBCo's side walls in Pasay City, accidentally caught fire due to a toppled gas lamp. The fire engulfed the whole shop, extended all the way to EDSA, and eventually made thousands of people homeless. We lost a lot of cars and buses, and stopped our operation in motorsports for a long time.

12 years: Ultimate Speedfest Championship. When the shop burned down, I gave my full support to organizing motorsports events. Since the team started the Philippine International Karting association back in 1986, the Philippine Motor Racing Association in 1994, and the MP Turbosports Club in 1983, we have been organizing karting, rallycross, motocross, and 4x4 events all around the country. We concentrated on the Ultimate Offroad Speedfest Championship, with Red Horse and Smart as the main title sponsors in 2003-2005. We had motocross events on Saturdays and 4x4 races on Sundays. Our rules had become the standard for other events.

BELOW 10 YEARS

8 years: Philippine National Touring Car Championship. After the fire engulfed our shop, the MP Turbo operated in the shops of old friends and managed to get the Honda Civic EK of Jonathan Buxton into the new PNTCC series that promoted Group N racing. The PNTCC had a unique formula, which included sprint and enduro races on the same weekend, therefore requiring a second driver for the enduro. MP Turbo driver Carlos Anton partnered with Buxton to win the series even with one more race to go.

1 year: Michelin Pilot Sport Experience. With all the driving tests and tours organized by the different car makers and trade partners, nothing could beat the Michelin Pilot Sport Experience. I was lucky to be one of the media practitioners sent to Sepang, Malaysia, to drive four disciplines of race and rally cars, all using Michelin tires. There were more than 30 media practitioners from Asia. The past Michelin events were very good to the Filipinos since we won most of them in the media category (James Deakin and Steven Yu are just a few media men who won them). Last year, I joined the roster of Filipino journalists who won the event's media category.

I hope this short motorsports history, through the MP Turbo team's journey, help make people aware of all the trials and successes the industry has had in the past. Now it's time to write a new chapter and we will bring it all here in Turbo Time!

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Unfiltered

JASMINE CURTIS SMITH

INTERVIEW BY
PAT CALICA

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
SARA BLACK

There's something charmingly sweet and innocent with the way Jasmine Curtis Smith's voice went soft when she was unsure of her answers during the interview then turned animated when we talked of things she's passionate about.

Shirt by *SPEED* • black shorts by **BERSHKA** • bracelet and earrings by **DENOVO DIAMONDS**

SHE MIGHT BE SHY ON THE OUTSIDE, BUT JASMINE IS A PROFESSIONAL COOL GIRL ALL AROUND. CASE IN POINT: SHE IS PARTICIPATING IN A CIRCUIT RACE SERIES, TRIED BUNGEE JUMPING, PLAYED WITH TIGERS, RODE AN ELEPHANT IN THAILAND, AND JUST A FEW HOURS BEFORE *SPEED*'S SHOOT WITH HER, SHE TRIED WAKEBOARDING FOR THE FIRST TIME—AND SHE'S READY FOR MORE ADVENTURES.

"If I don't start now, when else will I start the adventures? I'm so young. This is when my body is at its best to take on activities that are physically challenging," she said. Too true, Jasmine. Too true.

EVERYDAY GADGETS
Huawei P7, MacBook
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Huawei P7
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> **I think [I'm] more of [like] Sansa Stark because she follows, she listens, and she does the most logical thing**

THROUGH THE LENS

Jasmine had been playing on the fringe of show business for as long as she can probably remember—with her sister starting early on acting, her mom encouraging her to also try it, and her five-year-old self shooting commercials with no idea of all the going-ons.

But the spotlight wasn't welcomed that time. A few more commercial gigs for little Jasmine and she stopped.

"I don't think I enjoyed [the commercial shoots] when I was younger," she admitted. Now, four years into her career, Jasmine has already made several TV shows, notable movies, brand endorserments, and not to mention stunning magazine covers.

YOUR RECENT MAGAZINE COVERS SHOW A SEXIER AND MORE MATURE JASMINE CURTIS SMITH. ARE THESE PREVIEWS TO A MORE DARING IMAGE?
I think it's more of just an establishment of me landing that 21-year-old mark and showing my range. I've always been open to daring roles—not necessarily sexy or requiring skin to be shown, but more of just unexpected roles. And those magazine covers were very unexpected. I never really thought I could pull it off.

COMING FROM A MODELING BACKGROUND, YOU MUST BE COMFORTABLE BY NOW AT PHOTO SHOOTS?
I still get awkward, but I channel that into wanting to learn and hear feedback. I've only been doing it for four years. That's nothing compared to the seniors I've worked with. My sister, for example. She's been doing that for almost 20 years, if not any less. *Kahit na* I have that level of comfortability, *meron pa rin* part of me [questioning], "*Tama ba 'tong ginagawa ko*? Do they like what they're seeing?" But I'm sure even other artists feel that way no matter how long they've been in the industry. I'm shy at first *talaga* as a person, and then I warm up, and then I'm *madaldal na*.

WHAT PART OF PHOTO SHOOTS DO YOU LIKE THE MOST?
[It's] getting to spend time with my team, really, *kasi* that's when we catch up. That's when we talk about whatever gossip is out. *Dun talaga lumalabas 'yung pagiging* friends *namin*. Our conversations don't just stick to what we do, but more of everything we do in our life in general.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST AND LEAST ABOUT BEING IN FRONT OF THE CAMERA?
[What I like most] is that I get to test my confidence and self-belief *kasi ang daming nakatingin*. But you need to make sure that you project or give them what is needed and asked for.

What I don't like is when I get frustrated because I can't pull it off, and then my confidence level goes down, and people can feel the energy off me. Usually, [I'm] talkative when it's a really long shoot. *Pero* once I get one thing that ticks me off, [I become] quiet. You can't even talk to me. My mood just swings the other way. That's one thing I don't like being in front of the camera: [I] have to control that. And sometimes it's really hard.

WE HAVE SARA BLACK TODAY TO SHOOT YOU, AND YOU TWO ARE WORKING INCREDIBLY WELL TOGETHER. WHAT IS IT THAT YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT HER AS YOUR PHOTOGRAPHER?
I think it's that level of comfortability with her. The first time I worked with her, she already made me feel like we're friends. She has that term of endearment, "Babe." That kind of makes you feel like you've gotten to know each other to some extent. Also, I trust how she works because she comes from a background of modeling as well. Obviously, she knows exactly how the models should project or what they should do.

BEHIND THE CAMERA

Working in front of the camera, Jasmine is bound to get interested in what's going on behind it. But just like most of us, she hasn't gone beyond owning a camera, trying to play with it for some time, and then resorting back to our ever reliable phone snappers.

Jasmine now has three cameras, the one on her phone not included. A GoPro action cam is the newest addition to her small collection of photography gear, and perhaps the most used recently as she has been trying out physically challenging activities.

IN YOUR LAST INTERVIEW WITH *SPEED*, WHICH WAS ALSO A PHOTOGRAPHY ISSUE, YOU MENTIONED YOUR INTEREST IN PHOTOGRAPHY AND COLLECTING CAMERAS. HOW HAS THAT BEEN GOING FOR YOU?
I have a Canon EOS 100D, an Olympus PEN E-P3, and a GoPro. I was studying *kasi* photography at that time, very basic *lang*. We were studying black and white films for photography.

I never really got to learn how to function an SLR. From time to time, when I remember I have cameras and I'm free from work or I'm on vacation, I try to figure out the settings and all that.

HOW OFTEN IS THAT?
Not very often. What's handy now is the GoPro or phone [camera]. I try to play around with the settings of the phone as well *kasi* they're improving *din naman* what you can adjust and what not for the setting.

WHAT PHOTOGRAPHY APPS DO YOU USE ON YOUR PHONE?
Instagram. I love Instagram. I love posting photos. Squaready for video and photo. *Ang* convenient *ng* Squaready for video *kasi* you can choose which part of the song you want to put.

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE FILTER?
I use VSCO. I have seasons of filters. Right now, my season is the M3 filter, which is kind of a greenish, brownish filter. It's not always greenish brown; it's very colorful naman. Before that it was a different one. It was like a C2, C1, or something.

And I have this OC feeling right now with my feed where everything has to be landscaped. You'll see, I go through times *na lahat* square. *May* time *na 'yung may* white border. Now, for the past two, three months *lahat* landscaped.

WHAT DO YOU USUALLY TAKE PHOTOS OF?
Just recently, it's more of the clouds *kasi parang ang gaganda ng* formations recently. I'm trying to do this thing on my Tumblr where I take photos of light or anything that you look up to that looks interesting. I'm trying to make my own series. It's called the "Up" series. I was wondering how long I can keep on going.

DO YOU STILL REMEMBER YOUR FIRST CAMERA?
Yes, it was a digital camera. It was a Sony Cyber-Shot. I was in grade six, and I begged for it for Christmas.

WHAT'S ON TOP OF YOUR GADGET WISHLIST?
I want to see what it's like to control a drone because *ang* cool *eh*. [But] I'd make sure I use it in an area where people are comfortable [and] also [in a] controlled environment. I wouldn't want to make people feel uncomfortable and *parang nababastos*.

black romper by MISS SELFRIDGE • earrings and necklace by DENOVO DIAMONDS

AND CUT!

Jasmine is a sweetheart, that's for sure. She can be poised if she wants to, but what people don't usually see is the down-to-earth, cowboy side of the young actress. She isn't self-conscious about laughing loudly if she finds something funny. And you should see her get into her thinking mode (which she claims she usually does when alone). Jasmine would ask life's deepest questions, or try to unravel the mysteries of science and the world. Does she get an answer? We don't know. We didn't try to know.

WHEN YOU'RE ALL STRESSED OUT, HOW DO YOU UNWIND?
I sleep a lot. I watch TV series. I'm trying to catch up on *Game of Thrones* right now and I just got my copy of season one of *House of Cards*. When I'm not doing that, I'm asking for movie recommendations from friends. Or I'm playing my Xbox. Or I'm at the gym. I'm hardly out of my place.

YOU'RE A *GAME OF THRONES* FAN, TOO! WHICH SEASON ARE YOU ON RIGHT NOW?
I just started season 5 episode 1. And I love it.

CATCH UP!
I know! And I already can't believe that Aria traveled so much already. Such an independent little girl.

WHICH *GoT* CHARACTER CAN YOU RELATE MOST TO?
I want to relate to Khaleesi. She's so beautiful and so powerful. But she's also hard-headed sometimes, I think. I think [I'm] more of, if I were to really connect my personality with a character, [like] Sansa Stark because she follows, she listens, and she does the most logical thing—what will benefit this situation now, what will make it peaceful, so I don't cause any trouble. And then she knows how to turn it around and make it good for her *naman*: *bahala na kayo diyan* I need to really work for myself now.

YOU DO REALIZE THAT SANSA STARK IS BECOMING ONE OF THE MAJOR PLAYERS IN THE SERIES' NEW SEASON?
Yeah. Exactly! That's how I feel *din naman na* before. [She seems to be like:] "What are people saying? Ahh, I'll follow, I'll follow." And now [she's] trying to be [her] own person.

YOU'VE GOT GOOD TASTE IN TV SERIES. WHAT KIND OF MOVIES DO YOU LIKE TO WATCH?
I try to go through everything, although what I enjoy the most are horror or psych, weirdo movies.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE?
There's this one movie. [It's] not my favorite. But one of the most memorable horror movies I've watched would have to be *Mirrors*. After *nun, hindi ako makapagbanyo sa* house *ng* friend *ko kasi punong puno ng* mirrors *'yung banyo niya*. That's how effective that movie was to me.

One of those mind eff movies that I enjoy is—and I think it's everyone's favorite *din*—*Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*. And *Wicker Park*—it's kind of romance slash psycho movie. *Sobrang ganda*. All-time favorite.

SWITCHING TO A MORE SERIOUS SIDE OF YOU NOW, LET'S TALK ABOUT WORLD VISION, WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN NAMED YOUTH AMBASADDRESS OF AFTER BEING AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER. HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH THE ORGANIZATION?
My cousin invited me one time to join the 40 Hour Famine in Australia. [Then] It became an annual thing to join the 40 Hour Famine. I was seeing people here in the Philippines supporting me because I had to give up something for 40 hours and raise money in return for that. When I came here and started acting, World Vision Philippines contacted me because they saw how active I was in World Vision Australia.

WHAT ADVOCACY ARE YOU PROMOTING WITH THIS PARTNERSHIP?
It's more of giving back to the community and helping the kids of our community because World Vision is really focused on the children. We sponsor them not just for their education, but [also] for a healthier lifestyle and [better] environment as well. It starts with the children and then it spreads out to their family member and their community. This is the best way to progress into having a better country.

GIBISHOES
gibishoes

CONNECTING THE WORLD **ONE SWIPE AT A TIME**

YOSUKE FUKADA

CEO, Yoyo Holdings Pte. Ltd.

Interview by *Speed* Editorial Team
Photos by ANTONIO JOSE GALAURAN

While some dreamers are content with waiting for the world to change, visionary, engineer, and businessman Yosuke Fukada is already out trailblazing the path for startups locally and abroad.

This hardworking entrepreneur hardly takes days off, but admits finding joy in what he does. He advises young entrepreneurs to tread their own paths not with the goal of raking profit, but rather, with the aim of transforming the world and making it a better place for others—the same philosophy he applies to his startup company Yoyo Holdings Pte. Ltd, the company behind lock screen rewards app Popslide.

Before starting Yoyo, you worked for one of Japan's largest mobile platform, DeNA. What valuable lessons did you learn from the company?
[That in an organization] the people are very important to make a difference. In DeNA, people are great, they're amazing and hardworking, and they believe that the mobile technology industry can change the world drastically, that's why they work so hard.

So, what made you decide to start your own company?
In my case, it was not so important to start my own business. The most important thing was to change the world using mobile technology. So this is just one way for me [to do that]. Big companies cannot decide to start their [businesses] in other countries—it's very risky. That's why I started one myself.

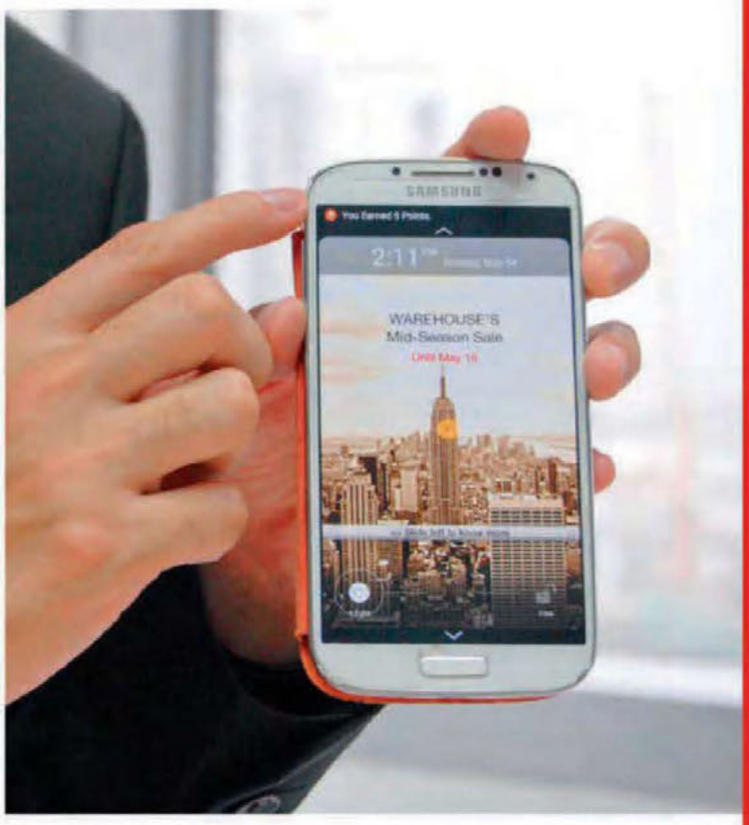
And so Yoyo Holdings was born. Your company has been noticed in startup communities across the region, and was even named Best Startup in Echelon Philippines 2014 and recently at the New Economic Summit in Tokyo. What do you think makes Yoyo special?
There are [already] a lot of great startups in Japan, Korea, Philippines, and other Asian countries. But what is special is that we at Yoyo just like to solve the biggest problems of the world.

Now, Yoyo's mission is to provide free mobile internet for the people. All over the world people can watch most TV programs for free. But why do we need to pay mobile cost? It should be free. And I think it is possible by using technology and [a good] business model. I think [the mobile platform can] provide opportunities worldwide especially by using mobile internet.

While some companies focus on the sellers, market opportunities, and so on, [Yoyo] also focuses on the social goodness. We hunger to solve the biggest problems all over the world, and we believe it is possible in the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, and so on.

When you moved to Cebu from Japan to study English, you learned about prepaid load and even sold them yourself. Tell us how this experience inspired you.
In Japan, nobody knows what prepaid load is—100 percent of Japanese [mobile users] are on postpaid. [When I was in Cebu] my English teacher's family had a *sari-sari* store and sold load to her friends. Every day, [people would just go] to the *sari-sari* store to buy load.

It was [something new to me] and it was very good information because I learned that *pasa* load is a way [of transaction here]. While few people have bank accounts, nearly all people have mobile numbers. Then I thought, if I have plenty of mobile numbers, I can make free load easily [available] by using *pasa* load. So, that became my starting business model in providing free load.



What was the most difficult thing that you or the business had to overcome here in the Philippines?
The fact that nobody believed that Yoyo can give free load. It sounds [like a] scam, right—to get free load? But we currently provide P50,000 in a day. At first, Popslide users cannot believe it. But right now we are partnering with big brands. Little by little, Filipinos [are changing their mind about us].

Can you tell us more about Popslide?
Whenever you use Android phone, you can see the lock screen. With Popslide installed, every time you see the lock screen, there are articles and applications flashed. After swiping the lock screen, they can get points for free. Now those points can be converted to mobile load. Popslide is already [available] here in the Philippines, in Indonesia, and just recently, Vietnam.

Do you think mobile digital ads will replace the traditional way of advertising?
[With the increasing] use of mobile phones, many companies are starting to focus on the mobile platform. Billboards [and traditional advertising] are very important, but nobody can [tell] how many people look at billboards. Nobody can count and measure. [On the other hand], smartphones have GPS information and we use GPS technology to forecast the specific user. For example, only Makati users can check this lock screen. We can count how many people swipe, and we can track that data. That's why big companies who go for [traditional advertising] should look into mobile advertising.

What's your vision for Yoyo Holdings?
The internet is opportunity, and opportunity can change your life drastically. But right now, several people cannot access the internet. So who can solve that problem? Can you imagine that Google and Facebook are the only two companies solving offline to online issues, and currently, Yoyo is third. So our goal is to connect seven billion people to the internet for free, all the time through mobile.

IN FOCUS: SARA BLACK

Beauty and fashion photographer

Interview by PAT CALICA

Sara Black has made her mark as one of the country's top beauty and fashion photographers. Arresting portraits of her subjects are well known in the industry, and it's largely credited to her stint from the other side of the lens. Having a background in modeling gives Sara a deeper understanding of her subjects, their needs, how to push their button, and when to pull back.

But watching Sara work with *Speed* cover girl Jasmine Curtis Smith showed us more of how she is able to bring out the vulnerability and authenticity of the person in her photographs. Sara's innate sweetness and honesty easily warm you to her, and before you know it, trust has already been established between the two of you.

When shooting a model for the first time, how do you warm him or her up?
I try to establish a connection with them before they go in front of my camera. You only have a few moments to get somebody's trust. I would talk to them a little bit before I actually shoot them. The topics could be about anything, just to make them comfortable. I don't have a spiel that I get into. It's just more of making a human connection. When I feel like we both established our rapport and [are] comfortable, I find that the end result is a lot better because the trust comes in.

What makes up the ideal subject?
Everybody can be an ideal subject. It depends on them how vulnerable they want to be for the photographer. If everybody were just authentic and honest, then they could be photographed in a good way. I do a lot of projects that photograph real people, and I really enjoy this immensely because [there's] no BS, just humanity.

Maybe that's your ideal subject, someone who's authentic and willing to show his or her vulnerability.
Yeah, I would say that. I think that's not just in taking photographs—that's across the board in my whole life. I just want to be real. Keep it real, keep it simple, no frills.

What's your work philosophy?
Just excellence. Whatever I can do to achieve excellence.

So, how do you prepare for photo shoots?
First and foremost, I take into consideration what the client needs, so I go over the pegs carefully and understand what the requirements are. From there, I usually incorporate my past experiences, especially if I'm shooting a celebrity—how I've photographed them before, how do they like to be photographed, [and] what facial [and] what body angles work best for them—so that when I get to the shoot, it all moves very softly.

Photo by **Melai Balitaan**

On a personal level, I just try to come into a shoot with a positive energy. I think shoots are a lot about teamwork and everybody has to be part of this very strongly linked chain to make a good end product. If you're coming into a shoot with a very positive energy, it's kind of contagious. Hopefully it rubs off with everyone, and we can all have a good time producing awesome work.

That's true. Positivity works like magic. So, what's the first thing you do after a photo shoot?
I think I enjoy myself a lot during the actual shoot that there's no need to de-stress or debrief myself. But from a work perspective, I go through the photographs that I've done for the day and review what worked and what didn't work. So when I'm submitting the files to the client, I'm giving the best output [and] quality that I can give.

Like you said, excellence. What got you interested in photography in the first place?
I got an instamatic camera as a Christmas present when I was 7 or 8. But I think one thing that stuck with me is the democracy of pointing your lens at something, clicking, and boom! It's right there. That's obviously over-simplifying the act of photography dramatically. But many people can do it and can enjoy doing it.

Who are your influences?
I love the style of Camilla Akrans. She imbibes what is feminine now. It's womanly, but it's a little edgy. She's not scared of light, but it's beautiful at the same time.

Locally, I have a lot of respect for Jun de Leon. He's been in the industry for a really, really long time. It's one thing to penetrate the industry in the beginning—I would say that's probably easier than having a career that has as much longevity as much as he had.

What gear do you use?
I'm using the [Canon EOS] 5D, especially for location shoots 'cause it's very convenient and handy to take around. It has video functions, too. When I'm in my studio, I use the [Canon EOS] 1D X. That's more the baby camera that you don't lug around everywhere.

Aside from your gear, what are your photo shoot must-haves?
We must have music. I think it helps set the tone. It also energizes people, sets the speed that people work at.

Do you have a go-to music playlist for shoots?
No, I just go to Spotify and play the "Have a Great Day!" or "Seize the Day!" playlist, or whatever workout music—anything that just has a nice momentum so that people can get into the mood of working.

Any other photography gear you own?
My other cameras are what I use for traveling while I'm on a holiday. I have a [Canon EOS] D60, which is excellent in low light. When I'm traveling or I'm with my family, I don't like to bring lenses [and] all these other accessories.

So you still take pictures outside work?
When I'm not at work, I try not to take pictures. (*laughs*) I do [take pictures], but it has to be a very special place. Let's say, I'm going to somewhere I've [already] been to before, I don't bring my SLR. The last big trip I did was in November when I went to Bolivia. It was too good an opportunity to pass up without a [camera]. My only problem is I find [that having] a camera with me kind of dissipates my experience of the actual reality, like you're experiencing through the screen of the camera. I would rather take pictures with my mind, store them in my memory, and have the whole sensory experience.

Are you into mobile photography, too?
For sure. Because I'm on Instagram, sometimes [having your phone with you] is the most convenient thing. The camera on the iPhone 6 isn't bad at all. I find that as long as you have good quality of light, the photos are pretty crispy. There's also something very gratifying about being able to share instantly, *di ba*?

I agree. How often do you post online?
I should be posting more. I tend to enjoy being fresh and in the moment, and it's not as apparent to me as other people that I need to document it, so I can share it. I would rather be here and now, and experience everything. [I] savor [the moment] rather than be concerned about taking a picture and sharing it on social media. Different strokes for different folks.

Any gadget wish list?
Are you kidding me? Of course! Okay. Dear, Santa, I would like a medium format digital back. But the way the [professional] rates in the Philippines are, it's just not possible. You have to upgrade your system every other year. It costs a lot of money and people don't pay us enough (*laughs*) to be able to [afford it]. It's really more of a luxury.

What's the best and the worst thing about being a photographer?
Oh my gosh, so many good things! I love my job. I can't do anything else. [There are] so many amazing opportunities. You're constantly with fascinating people. You're always in the loop of what's new, what's fresh, [and] what is trendy. Just the creative energy in the workplace—I love it!

The worst thing? I don't know. There's no perfect job, of course. This is what I chose *eh*. Whatever difficulties come my way doing this profession doesn't even make a dent.

Any tips for up-and-coming photographers?
Follow you passion. It is a very steep climb ahead, so get ready.

Geek-spotting

JOHN PAGADUAN
Makeup artist

RACHEL FELICIA
Fashion stylist

RAVEN DIZON
Hair stylist

How do you typically prepare for a shoot or makeup session? The night before a shoot or makeup session, I clean my brushes, and then check and review the pegs, if any. I make sure that I have the right makeup and tools.
Aside from your makeup kit, what else can't you leave home without? I have to have my iPhone with me. It's very important *kasi dun ako nagta*-transact *ng* business ko, *'pag may mga nagboo*-book *sakin na* client.
Any website or blog you follow where you draw inspiration from? Locally, I check out Stylebible (*stylebible.ph*). *'Pag sa* international *naman*, I follow InStyle (*instyle.com*).
What gadget or technology do you think can help you in your profession? *Siguro 'yung pang* analyze *ng* face. *Kasi kaming mga* makeup artists *bina*-base *namin 'yung pagma*make-up on the shape of the face and *sa* complexion. So *siguro*, [it would help *na*] *'pag ini*-scan mo *'yung* face *ng* client *mo*, *malalaman mo na agad 'yung* color *at* type *ng* makeup *na gagamitin mo*.

Stylist's essential gear: I always have my personal styling kit beside me. Inside my kit are pins, clamps, fashion tape, and a few accessories.
What gadgets can't a stylist like you leave home without? I can't leave home without my phone (iPhone 6 Plus) because my email is there. When I have meetings, I present my pegs through my phone, and then when I have bookings, I contact clients through my phone.
What are your favorite apps? My favorite is Keynote. [With it] I can put all of the pegs for my presentation, and take down notes as much as I want. Also, Spotify for music. If I'm bored, I play *Clash of Clans*.
What gadget or app do you think can help stylists? [I wish] there was an app where I can [search the stock of stores] and indicate for instance, white heels, white stilettos, and then it shows [where I can find those]. I really need that.
What advice can you give aspiring stylists? Just be passionate. If styling makes you happy, go for it. Follow your heart, and make sure that you will do your best and excel [in your chosen field].

What's in your bag—aside from your hairstyling tools, of course? I have my Samsung GALAXY S5 with me all the time. *Kailangan lagi ko siyang dala* when I go to shoots. [I use it for maps, location], and *'pag kukuha ng* taxi. I also have my Bluetooth speaker, an HMDX Jam Bluetooth wireless speaker [for listening to music].
You mentioned that you use your phone for your transportation needs. What are your most-used mobile apps? GrabTaxi, Instagram, PhotoMirror, PhotoGrid. I also use Camera 360.
Is there any particular site you check to get inspiration? *Sa* Instagram *ako nagse*-search. I also visit YouTube. When there's a hairstyle or product *na hindi ko alam*, I just Google it.
Any hairstyling gear on your wish list? A deep wave curling iron.
What's your work attitude or philosophy? Listen to your client and never stop learning.

KRISTINE BARREIRO
Photographer

Photography arsenal: Canon 6D, Canon 24-105L f/4, Canon 70-200mm f/2.8 NON IS, Canon 100mm f/2.8 L, Canon 40mm f/2.8, Fujifilm X-T1 + Fujinon XF 23mm f/1.4, and a few film cameras
Photography gear wish list: Canon 70-200mm f/2.8L IS II, Fujinon XF 10-24mm
Favorite apps: VSCOcam, Adobe Photoshop
Where can we find your works online? I have an online website, but it's still under construction (*kristinebarreiro.weebly.com*), but you can visit my Flickr site (*flickr.com/tinniebee*) and Instagram (*@kristinebarreiro*)
What got you interested in photography? Ever since I was a kid I had this fascination with gadgets. One day my father brought home a bulky digital camera. I got interested in it and explored it. I realized that one click gives you a different kind of experience—something that is beyond imagination.
What was your first camera ever? My first camera was an Olympus film camera that my mother gave to me as a birthday present when she realized that I love taking photos.
What's your daily go-to camera? The Fujifilm XT-1. It's handy and performs very, very well.
Film or digital? I'm interested in both. I like the challenge you get with film photography, but I also like how practical digital photography can be.
Favorite photography subject: It gives me a different kind of fulfillment when I'm doing sports photography because there is action that is only presented to you once.
What's a day like in the life of a photographer? A photographer's life—or at least in my life—is similar to that of an investigator. I spend my day searching, scanning everything around me, and looking for that special story that is worthy to be told.
What's your photography philosophy? Photography is an art that allows you to tell a story that can impact the lives of millions of people. It's a way of storytelling [that uses] not only your eyes but [also] your heart to be able to share to people your perspectives in life.
What role does technology play in your work routine? Technology serves as an avenue for me and other photographers to share and express our passion.
Do you have any hobbies? Aside from photography, travel interests me because it allows me to see the world and capture how beautiful and extraordinary it is.
If you weren't a photographer, what would you be? A videographer? Haha! I honestly don't know what I'd be. I can't see myself not being involved with photography. It's what I do. It's what makes me happy. And it's what keeps me going.
How do you see yourself five years from now? Five years from now I'd like to see myself still holding my camera, still capturing the beauty of life, and still chasing emotions and actions of amazing people around me. I would like to be able to put up, together with my sister, a photo café wherein people from different walks of life will be able to talk about that one thing that we all love.

CIRIACO SANTIAGO III
Religious missionary, photographer

Photography arsenal: Fujifilm and Canon
Photography gear wish list: Canon 85mm and a Fujinon 56mm
Everyday gadget: Fujifilm X-T1
Where can we find your works online? You can check Tudla Productions' website (*tudlaproductions.org*) and my personal Facebook account
How did your passion for photography start? After my leave of absence as part of my transition to going back to a religious life, I took up photography classes for the simple reason that I bought a DSLR camera.
So today, what's a day like in your life as a photographer? I am not a full-time photographer by profession. My main apostolate is being a religious missionary. My camera is only my gear to capture moments and make these photos tell stories.
What kind of photography do you do now? I do documentary photography because it mainly tells the stories of the most abandoned sectors of society. [I also do] photojournalism which does almost a similar thing, but focuses on telling the stories of the daily lives and struggles of the people.
Any favorite subject or shoot you've done so far? We once did a shoot on a small-scale mining industry.
And you've exhibited some of your photos? Yes, in UP Los Banos and UP Diliman. It was part of our masterclass on documentary photography with Alex Baluyut. But it also aimed to expose the inhumane situation people suffer in the small- and large-scale mining industry in the country.
Who would you consider as your influences in photography? Alex Baluyut and Jay Alonzo
How do you see the current state of documentary photography and photojournalism in the country? There's still a lot of room for players.
Do you also shoot other photography genres? Not much, but I do love shooting landscapes.
Of all the cameras you've owned, which do you consider your favorite? So far, it's my Fujifilm X-T1.
What advice can you give for aspiring photographers or photography enthusiasts? Shoot and shoot, *at mainggit sa mga* masters *ng iba't ibang* photography genre.

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DID YOU KNOW?

THERE'S HOPE FOR YOUR LOW-LIGHT, GRAINY PHOTOS AFTER ALL!

With the appropriately named Noiseless app by Macphun, you can now clean up the noisy artifacts in your photos in a simple and painless manner.

This new Mac photo editing app offers one-click presets to easily and quickly remove noise from any image, no matter how hopeless it looks. Each preset contains an opacity slider that lets you adjust the strength of the noise reduction to your liking.

Alas, you need to shell out $17.99 (or $49.99 for the Pro version) to be able to make magic.

VAL J. GONZALES

Creating your own virtual darkroom

Alternative workflows for your photography without spending any money

IF YOU HAVE AN IDLE LAPTOP LYING AROUND AND ARE A LONG-TIME SHUTTERBUG WANTING TO PLAY WITH SOMETHING NEW, READ ON.

We'll be exploring some apps to help you go through the common workflow—taking shots, transferring photos from your camera to your workstation, organizing your photos, editing them, and sharing them for the world to see.

TETHER YOUR CAMERA

Professional photographers tether their cameras to a laptop running a specialized software. A tethered camera saves photos immediately to the connected laptop and in the folder that you specified. After releasing the shutter, you immediately see the raw files on a bigger screen; photos lie when viewed on your camera's small LCD. Tethering also gives you instant feedback, so you can adjust your settings accordingly.

One of the features that I enjoy out of tethering is the automated focus stacking, a technique used to superimpose a series of photos with increasing depth of field made with different exposure configurations. Product photographers usually employ this technique with the aid of sophisticated software.

For Canon DSLRs, a tethering software called the **Canon EOS Utility** (free) is available for Mac and Windows users. Unfortunately for Nikon cameras, the official software—**Camera Control Pro 2** (P8,000; Windows, Mac)—has a heavy price tag.

If you're a Windows user who wants to save some cash, the **digiCamControl** app (free) is the tool for you. If you dual-boot with a Linux system, **Entangle** (free) is a great app to download. It can easily be installed from the distribution's repositories.

COPY PHOTOS FROM THE CAMERA

Transferring your photos from the camera is an easy task as Windows 8 and Mac OS have native apps to import photos once they detect a camera plugged in.

On Linux, **Rapid Photo Downloader** performs the basic tasks plus auto-renaming and auto-creation of folder hierarchy based on meta tags and/or EXIF data. My favorite is the way it syncs the RAW file to its JPEG counterpart and counts the two files as one photo entry. This app also allows creating backups on the fly to an external drive.

ACDSee 18 (P1,800) is one of the most versatile Windows programs that can download your photos and organize them according to your workflow.

ORGANIZE YOUR PHOTOS THE WAY YOU WANT IT

Tagging your photos after downloading makes a lot of sense in preventing future clutter. **ACDSee** (P7,000/year; Windows, Mac) and **Adobe Lightroom** (P7,000/year; Windows, Mac) both support simple and complex tags for the obsessive compulsive. Simple tags can be objects found in the photo, while complex tags may include the lens used in taking the picture.

The open source project **digiKam** (free; Windows, Mac, Linux) is a surprisingly complete package that could give commercial apps a good run for their money. It makes use of a plug-in model that allows specialized tools to seamlessly run inside the app.

ExifTool is another gem for hardcore enthusiasts who love to automate tasks in their workflow. This Perl library can be invoked via the command line (using a script or batch file) to read/write/update metadata on almost any file.

PROCESS AND DEVELOP THE 'NEGATIVES'

Adobe Photoshop and **Lightroom** have been the *de facto* standard when talking about photo editing and developing tools. Adobe also wins in having the most number of third-party plug-ins, actions, and filters.

Darktable (free; Mac, Linux) is an alternative application dedicated to processing RAW files. It applies non-destructive editing to RAW files. Changes are saved in a separate XMP file, leaving the RAW file untouched.

Recently, Serif announced the beta preview of its **Affinity Photo** (private beta), a Mac app built to rival Photoshop's features. **Tiffen Dfx** (P5,730 with free trial; Windows, Mac) is another tool that comes in both standalone and plug-in formats. **Alien Skin Exposure 7** (P6,600 with free trial; Windows, Mac) allows you to see the photo several stops up or down to achieve a dramatic effect. Its black-and-white filters are top-notch. And I have tried out **DxO OpticsPro** (P5,730 with free trial; Windows, Mac) to correct the lens distortion effect of my zoom lens due to a wide angle.

This is the part of the workflow where you don't want to save money because good filters come with a high price tag.

PUBLISH YOUR PHOTOS

Most of the tools that organize your photos come with plug-ins for sharing via third-party providers. Some generate static HTML-code galleries that you can upload to a Web server. Others like **Flickr** and **Picasaweb** provide an online gallery for easy viewing. All metadata written to the photos are captured and converted as tags for easy referencing.

But if you really, really want to host your own gallery, try **Piwigo**. It's a LAMP application that is easy to install. It offers all the basic features plus it allows you to upload your photos using an organizer like digiKam.

Have fun googling everything up.

Shoot like a DIY pro

Words **ANTONIO JOSE GALAURAN**

We photographers—amateurs and semi-pros alike—have all dreamed of that day when we would be shooting like ace pros.

But while we are thousands of gear and budget miles far from our trigger-shooting heroes, certainly we can still make stunning images even with our basic gear by knowing some of these resourceful hacks.

Handy bounce flash

Remember that group photo where your faces ended up whitewashed like the Addams family? Disgusting as it may be, know that you can remedy this problem before buying that extra speedlight.

Draw your instant bounce flash straight from your pocket: the handy business card.

Any white solid cardboard material has the ability to reflect light. Simply place it at a 45-degree angle in front of your built-in flash and the card will block the hard frontal flash, bounce light to the ceiling, and then scatter the light to illuminate the room.

Instant flash diffuser

That clean (or not) leftover tissue from dinner may be your ticket to your friends praising you like pro.

While some of you may have fallen in love with the bounce flash, some situations (like a roofless spot or high ceiling venue) call on another technique—softening of light. Neutralize that harsh frontal pop-up by placing a thin cloth, tissue, or a similar translucent material in front of your built-in flash.

Resourceful reflector

In shooting portraits, photographers know that the proper illumination of the face can make or break a photograph. Reflectors play a role in controlling the amount and angle of light. But folks who have yet to find the budget for a decent reflector need not fret.

Some cheap materials you can turn to are aluminum car covers, aluminum foil, white sheets and fabric, styrofoam, or even a shooting partner wearing white.

Reverse lens macro photography

Love to shoot close-up macro shots but find those 5- and 6-digit macro lenses a pain in the pocket? You are not alone. Thanks to graces from the heavens, you can still shoot macro photography even without a specialized macro lens. How? Shoot with your lens in reverse.

But you may be thinking, how on earth do you attach a reverse lens to your camera body? We're here to suggest two methods you can consider.

The first and more resourceful method makes use of a toilet roll tube as an extender. Cut the role tube and fit it around the lens. Tape black paper to help cut out reflections before attaching the reversed lens to the body and sealing the lens in place.

The other method is to buy a reverse ring adapter. Adapters are a long way cheaper than macro lenses, but should be decent enough to give you a fraction of a pro macro photographers' ability.

DIY bokeh patterns

Bokeh often appears as circular blurs in our portrait's defocused background. But for shooters who'd like to get fancy with bokeh shapes, you can manually create customized bokeh yourself using black paper, tape, scissors, and a large aperture (low value) lens.

First, create a makeshift lens hood out of paper. Next, cut black paper into a circular shape the size of your lens frame. In the middle of the black round paper, cut out any shape you'd want your bokeh to appear then tape that paper in front of your lens as close as possible. You can now get endless custom-shaped bokehs for your background.

TAKE PERFECT TRAVEL PHOTOS

Words and photos **ZOE EZEQUIEL**

We asked a travel junkie who says she travels for fun and has no bucket list of places to visit. She uses film and lo-fi cameras, but her travel photography tips work just as well for digital users. After all, the core principles of taking photos work on any medium. It's not the camera, remember? It's you. - Ed.

CHOOSE THE BEST SEAT

If you're traveling by bus, choose a seat that gives you the most unhampered view. If you're not sure, ask the driver. It's disappointing to find out you picked the wrong seat on a bus traveling along a coastal highway and all you can see out the window is the side of the mountain.

In some places in the Philippines, expect to see people riding on top of mini-buses and jeepneys. Don't be afraid to try it. You can get good photos of the scenery from a higher angle.

In a tricycle, try sitting behind the driver. To get sharp pictures from a moving vehicle, use a fast shutter speed and a lightweight camera that doesn't need two hands to take a shot. You want to be able to stick your arm out the window to capture a scene.

WHAT TO BRING

For the beginner

- one camera (to capture more of the scenery, use a camera with a wide angle lens)
- enough film for your entire trip (it's difficult to find shops that sell film)
- spare batteries (some cameras don't need batteries)
- backup camera in case the other one fails (your cell phone camera can be your backup camera)
- plastic bags to waterproof your gear (you can use resealable food bags or freezer bags)

For the advanced hobbyist

- all of the above
- flash
- other cameras
- accessories for creative shooting (splitzer, filters)
- tripod/monopod (I have never used those things)
- dry bag

SLOW DOWN

Traveling can become hectic if you have a tight schedule to follow, or your guide wants to make sure you get to see all the popular sights in the shortest time possible. Make room in your itinerary for some free time. Your companions may want to spend it lying on a hammock and reading a book, or hanging around the beach and watching other people. Let them. You can explore on your own.

Walking lets you see more detail. On foot, you are slower, so you can also spend more time in one location. Visit the village to see where locals live and what goes on in their community, but remember to respect the locals.

Use a small camera to take pictures of people. It's less intimidating than a large camera with a long lens.

DON'T PARTY TOO MUCH

It's important to get enough sleep, or else you will miss the sunrise shot the next day. If you take a midnight bus ride and sleep during the night, be sure you wake up just as the sun rises so you can take some pictures. Remember that the color of the sky changes quickly.

There may also be interesting scenes that you would not see at other times of the day. Fishermen could be returning with their catch, or some people could be taking a morning run on the beach for exercise.

Whether you use a tripod or not is up to you. Consider the kind of camera and film you have.

LOOK ALL AROUND YOU

Some of the interesting photos that I've taken are scenes that I would have missed if I didn't look behind me. Not only should you look behind you, you should also look all around; you might see something interesting.

Get a more interesting photo by looking at scenes from a different angle. Hold the camera up above you or keep it low. With a small, wide-angle or fisheye camera, you don't even need to look through the viewfinder. Or you can just take a panoramic shot to get everything in.

KEEP YOUR COOL

Getting a flat tire, getting stuck in the mud, or getting momentarily lost can spoil your day. It's easy for one hot-headed companion to aggravate the situation and annoy everyone else in your group. But keeping your cool tends to keep everyone calm as well.

Take pictures while your friends change the tire. Use the unexpected break to stretch your legs and take photos. If you seem lost, stop and ask for directions. And don't complain when your friends insist on buying something at the market or souvenir store.

Take pictures of these experiences. Tell a story with your images.

DO-IT-ALL DEVICE

Q

Hi, *Speed*!

I am a stay-at-home mom who's just started a blog. Currently I have a Samsung Tab 3, Sun pocket Wi-Fi, Sony Cyber-shot camera, and a basic MyPhone handset. Every time I go to events I bring all these gadgets with me, plus I need to charge all of these the night before. Can you suggest that one ultimate gadget that fits my lifestyle? I want to have only one. Please help.

Thank you and more power!

Mary Jane Dionela

A

Dear Mary Jane,

We hear you. We feel you. We have the same dilemma when covering events. Where the heck is that one device that can do everything and whose battery can last more than a day? Alas, we haven't found one. The good news is that we've discovered a workaround to this problem: a top-spec phablet.

Here's why it works:

1. *It's easy to compose a blog entry on a large display.*
2. *A good camera on your smartphone can take the place of your point-and-shoot. A lot of flagship phones boast of exceptional built-in cameras that take photos good enough not only for the Web but also for printing.*
3. *You can do so many things with all of that processing power.*
4. *With a mobile data plan, you can post your entries on the fly.*

However, you will still need to carry around your charger or a powerbank to keep your device running as long as you need it to. While there are now a lot of smartphones/phablets with huge batteries (look for one with 2,800mAh and above), it's still wise to be safe than sorry.

Now, as for what specific device you should get, it all depends on you. Are you more comfortable with Android, Windows, or iOS? What's your ideal display size? How much are you willing to spend for your do-it-all device? Here are some phones we recommend you consider: Apple iPhone 6 Plus, Sony Xperia Z2 or Z3, LG G3 or G4, Samsung GALAXY S5 or S6, and ASUS Zenfone 2.

Good luck on looking for that ideal device that will fit your lifestyle and personality, Mary Jane! And congratulations on starting a blog! To celebrate your new career as a blogger, we're gifting you with this Braven 805 Wireless HD Bluetooth speaker worth P9,950. You can pair this with your new smartphone and relax to your favorite tunes while working on your blog.

BRAVEN

BUDDING FILMMAKER

Hi, *Speed*! I'm planning to take up film classes this coming semester, but I am not sure which is the right computer to buy for heavy video editing. I'm torn between getting the latest iMac model and a Windows desktop, which costs about half to two-thirds of the former's price. Which one do you think I should get? Thank you and more power to your team!

Chester Ilao

Hi, Chester.

There's no clear-cut answer to that question. It depends on a number of factors, such as what you're editing, what software you'll be using, and how big or small your budget is.

The latest iMac is a good choice, especially with its Retina 5K display that can show amazing details—something you'd find useful when editing your videos. The specs aren't something to sneeze at either. What's good with PCs, on the other hand, is that you can build your own according to the specs you need—for a much lower price than a Mac.

It comes down to your personal preference, really. If you're more comfortable using a Mac, then stick with it. If you're more confident with a PC, then don't go out of your way spending extra money on a Mac. If you ask us, all you really need to edit video is a computer that can handle all that power-hungry processing without any lag or interference.

CALCIUM ASCORBATE

Calcium-Cee©

Vitamin C

Choose Calcium Cee. It's the Vitamin C in Calcium Ascorbate form that provides Calcium and Vitamin C that's good for the teeth and gums.

Calcium Ascorbate like Calcium Cee is scientifically proven:

• Specialized disease-fighting cells – Vitamin C plays a big role in the development of immune system's specialized disease-fighting cells. These cells help fight and reduce nasty things in our mouth like bacteria that could cause certain oral infections.

• Heals oral surgery fast – According to the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD), regular intake of Vitamin C can ensure timely recovery for oral surgery patients.

• Fights receding gum line and tooth sensitivity – Experts also suggest that adequate amounts of Vitamin C can quickly overcome receding gum line and tooth sensitivity.

• Remineralizer – Vitamin C such as Calcium Ascorbate donates soluble Calcium ion to help remineralize micro-tissues and micro-cracks in the dental enamel. It also counteracts bacterial acids that leak out calcium, which weakens dental enamel.

• Good for Calcium Absorption – Vitamin C keeps the absorption of Calcium into the bone and tooth pattern to make them stronger.

• The invisible Toothbrush – Vitamin C has been referred to as the "Invisible Toothbrush." According to recent studies, people who only brush their teeth once a day and consume higher amounts of Vitamin C have less plaque and bacteria on their teeth than others who brush their teeth two or more times a day.

O099N081413C
NO APPROVED THERAPEUTIC CLAIMS

HOTLINE NO:
0917564CCEE (2233)

mercury drug
NAKASIGURO GAMOT AY LAGING BAGO

Billboard

EPSON PRINTS 'LOVE' FOR CHILDREN WITH CANCER

Epson Philippines joined photographer Pilar Tuason and Kythe Foundation in "Portraits of Love," an initiative designed to bring smiles to the faces of children with cancer. The most recent event was held at the Philippine Children's Medical Center.

"It's a small offering—a print out of the portraits of the children with their parents. And yet, witnessing how the faces of the children light up when we give their photos to them is a profound experience,"said Donna Ferro, head of Marcom and PR of Epson Philippines Corp.

The Kythe Foundation is a non-profit, non-stock organization aimed toward improving the quality of life among hospitalized children with cancer and other chronic illnesses.

HONDA PH LAUNCHES CLICK 125i IN BULACAN

Honda Philippines introduced its Honda Click 125i scooter to Bulaceños in a two-day event at SM City Baliwag, Bulacan.

Riders and non-riders alike were able to try the Click 125i as well as Honda's automatic models, the Beat110 and the Zoomer-X. Entertainment, refreshments, food, and freebies were also given to guests.

CALTEX RELAUNCHES HAVOLINE, NEW ENGINE OIL

Chevron Philippines relaunched its Havoline brand with the introduction of three new engine lubricants: ProDS Fully Synthetic ECO 5 SAE 5W-30, Synthetic Blend SAE 5W-30, and Super 4T Synthetic Blend SAE 10W-40. These new products are now available at Caltex stations and select auto supply stores nationwide.

The brand relaunch also introduced the new Deposit Shield Technology, which promises to protect the engine by coating the moving parts and shielding it from deposits, metal-to-metal contact, corrosive agents, and the extreme temperatures of combustion. The company also unveiled a new label design that highlights Havoline's brand promise to "Protect What Matters."

"Drivers today want to protect what really matters—the investment they made in their vehicles and its performance. Our latest introduction, Havoline with Deposit Shield Technology, provides a proven solution that helps to maintain engine performance, preserves engine life, while maximizing fuel economy," said Michelle Sayat, Chevron Philippines Marketing Manager for Lubricants.

NIKON REUNITES PROS, OPENS SCHOOL

Nikon Philippines recently announced the return of the Nikon PROs and the opening of the Nikon School.

The Nikon PROs, composed of six of the country's top photographers, were reunited as brand ambassadors, and will be holding activities and classes that support the brand and the students enrolled in Nikon School. The Nikon PROs are George Tapan, Ted Madamba, Parc Cruz, Paul Ticzon, Joe Galian, and Raymond Cruz.

Nikon School, a venue for both amateur and professional training, will feature workshops that cater to different levels of photographic ability.

UNDER ARMOUR KICKS OFF EARN YOUR ARMOUR CAMPAIGN

Under Armour Philippines officially launched the first leg of its "Earn Your Armour" campaign with the Fight Form: Elite Edition at Bonifacio High Street, Bonifacio Global City. The campaign is organized by Triple Private Ltd., the exclusive distributor of Under Armour in Southeast Asia.

In partnership with Ultimate Fitness Gym and Coach Erwin Tagle, the challenge brought together dozens of martial arts enthusiasts for an evening of intense workouts. Pioneered by Coach Tagle, "Fight Form" is a fitness program that utilizes martial arts movements in a no-contact format.

The launch of Fight Form: Elite Edition kicks off a six-week program for aspiring athletes to Earn Their Armour with daily and weekly challenges. Participants must log on to *tripleready.com* to register then download the Endomondo fitness app to receive their challenges and to log their accomplishments. Certified trainers select winners of the campaign. For the first leg, winners took home the new Avengers seamless replica compression wear.

The launch also featured exciting demonstrations of Muay Thai, jiu-jitsu, and wrestling. Celebrity athletes Luis Manzano, JC de Vera, and JM de Guzman showed their martial arts prowess to the delight of the audience.

Also gracing the event were MMA Asia superstar and One Fighting Championship bantamweight title holder Mark Striegl, volleyball superstar and fitness icon Gretchen Ho, and actor/host Robbi Domingo.

The next leg of Earn Your Armour will be on July 22 at UP Town Center. For schedule updates, visit *tripleready.com*.

NEW CANON IMAGERUNNER PRINTERS FEATURE ENHANCED OPERABILITY, PRODUCTIVITY

Canon unveils a new lineup for small- to medium-sized business with its new imageRUNNER ADVANCE C3300 series.

The C3320, C3325, and C3330 color multifunction systems all feature a compact body design and print speeds of up to 20 to 30 pages per minute (ppm) when outputting A4 documents in landscape mode.

The new series comes with a new color profile that achieves an expanded color-reproduction range for printed materials, and maximizes the use of sharpness control to make possible crisp, high-impact images.

CLEANFUEL OFFERS IMPROVED QUALITY IN SERVICE STATIONS

Cleanfuel, supplier of environment-friendly fuels, continues its expansion in the country with the opening of new service stations that offer affordable and quality service.

Aside from fueling up, you can also have your oil, water, and tires' air pressure checked in these stations. Cleanfuel offers 95 Octane, Diesel, Autogas LPG all at Euro standards.

Celebrating the partnership are (from left) Globe Senior Advisor for Consumer Business Dan Horan, Globe President and CEO Ernest Cu, Disney's Minnie Mouse and Mickey Mouse, special guest and Disney legend Lea Salonga, and The Walt Disney Company Southeast Asia Managing Director, Rob Gilby.

GLOBE, DISNEY SEAL MULTI-YEAR DEAL

Globe Telecom has partnered with The Walt Disney Company Southeast Asia to give Filipino Globe users exclusive access to interactive content, promotions, videos-on-demand, and other related services from Disney and its brands Pixar, Marvel, Star Wars, and Maker Studios.

"We are thrilled to bring the Disney brand of storytelling closer to more Filipinos through this collaboration with Globe," said Rob Gilby, Managing Director, The Walt Disney Company Southeast Asia. "With this unique collaboration, Disney fans in the Philippines will now be able to take their favorite stories and beloved characters everywhere they go across their choice of devices."

Billboard

MAKE PERFECT CUPS, PANINI WITH KRUPS

German brand Krups boasts both technical refinement and timeless elegance in its select array of kitchen line offerings.

One of its new products is the XP5210 Manual Espresso Machine, which is equipped with the patented Krups Automatic Tamping System, wherein each cup of espresso is tamped perfectly and consistently. Its Compact Thermoblock system, which produces 92°C of hot water, makes fresh coffee with just the right temperature, from first to last cup. The built-in stainless steel frother also creates velvety froth from fresh milk, making cappuccinos and café lattes easily accessible and convenient.

The PG70 Panini Grill, on the other hand, is a classic product from Krups. Its large-ribbed, non-stick griddle plates allow flexible use on meat and other food products. Simply adjust the thermostat indicator, and you will be able to set your preferred heat for cooking. It even accommodates much thicker food items with its self-adjusting floating hinge, assuring the even distribution of heat.

Krups is available in leading department stores and appliance stores nationwide. For more details and inquiries, call (02) 681-6160 to 61 or visit *facebook.com/KrupsPH*.

TEMOX OFFERS AFFORDABLE INSECT KILLERS

Filipino-made and FDA-approved TEMOX multi-insect killer offers a more affordable alternative to the pricey insect killers on the market today. The TEMOX Insect Killer (kerosene and water-based formula), Multi-Insect Killer Waterbased, and Chalk Roach and Ant Killer are priced 20 to 30 percent less but promise to be effective in killing flying and crawling insects.

TEMOX ensures that its products are neither harsh nor harmful to human, pets, and the environment. For more information, visit *temox.ph* and *facebook.com/temox*.

FELTA LAUNCHES RUGGEDIZED HYBRID FOR YOUNG USERS

Felta Multimedia Inc. partnered with Intel Education and Microsoft Philippines and launched the Unite Value 2-in-1 laptop, which will be offered to Felta partner schools.

This rugged, dust- and water-resistant laptop is powered by Intel Baytrail quad-core processor and runs on Windows 8.1 with Bing and Microsoft Office. This 10-inch device may be used as a tablet when separated from its keyboard dock. It comes equipped with a macro lens, rear and front cameras, a thermal scanner, and a stylus. There's also Wi-Fi connectivity, Bluetooth 4.0, and security software to safeguard children from online threats.

LINKSYS EA9200 ROUTER PROMISES FASTER SPEEDS

Homes with multiple internet users who need faster connection speeds and wider range can benefit from Linksys's new wireless AC router, the AC3200 Tri-Band Smart Wi-Fi Router (EA9200) that promises to provide networking speeds of up to 3.2Gbps.

The Linksys EA9200 is equipped with three Wi-Fi radios—one 2.4GHz and two 5GHz—to provide multiple wireless streams. It also features the innovative Smart Connect technology that automatically balances your devices over the two high-speed 5GHz bands in real time. It selects the best band for each device, ensuring optimal device performance.

Hâlo

Let Your Style Speak

1. MATHEW Sling Bag
   SRP: Price starts at PhP 550.00
2. JEANNE Pouch
   SRP: PhP 295.00
3. DAYTON Pouch
   SRP: PhP 249.00
4. IRWAN Pouch
   SRP: PhP 295.00
5. TRACY Laptop Bag
   SRP: PhP 895.00
6. WALT Reversible Sleeves
   SRP: Price starts at PhP 295.00

Store Directory

3D Robotics
3drobotics.com

Apple
Available at authorized resellers nationwide
apple.com

ASUS
ASUS Technology Philippines, Inc.
(02) 634-0309
4/F Hanston Bldg., Ortigas Center, Pasig
ph.asus.com

Blackmagic
blackmagicdesign.com

BMW
Asian Carmakers Corporation
28/F Pacific Star Building, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati
bmw.com.ph

Bosch
bosch.com.ph

Brother
Brother Philippines
(02) 581-9800
6/F Marajo tower, 312 26th St. cor. 4th Ave., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig
welcome.brother.com

Canon
Canon Marketing (Philippines) Inc.
(02) 884-9090
G/F and 7/F Commerce and Industry Plaza Bldg., Campus Ave. cor. Park Ave., McKinley Hill, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig
canon.com.ph

Catlike
catlike.es

Chevrolet
The Covenant Car Company, Inc.
chevy.com.ph

DJI
dji.com

Ford
Ford Philippines
(02) 744-2222
29 EDSA, San Juan
ford.com.ph

Fujifilm
Fujifilm Philippines, Inc.
(02) 550-2420
10/F Tower 2, The Enterprise, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati
fujifilm.com.ph

Garmin
Navco
(02) 382-1898
3/F Millenium Place, Meralco Ave. cor. Julia Vargas Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig
ph.garmin.com
navco.com.ph

GreenIQ
greeniq.co

H&M
Available at H&M stores in Robinsons Magnolia, SM North The Block, SM Makati, and SM Megamall
hm.com/ph

Honda
Honda Cars Philippines, Inc.
105 South Main Ave., Laguna Technnopark, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
hondaphil.com

HTC
htc.com/sea

Hyundai
Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc.
(02) 813-6788 to 89
10-12/F, KPMG Center, 6787 Ayala Ave., Makati
hyundai.com/ph

Isuzu
Isuzu Philippines Corporation
(049) 541-0224/584-4081 to 06
114 Technology Ave., Laguna Technopark Phase II Biñan, Laguna
isuzuphil.com

Kia
Available at all Kia dealers nationwide
kia.com/ph

Leica
LG/F Greenbelt 5, Makati
leica-camera.com

LG
LG Electronics Philippines, Inc.
(02) 902-5544
15/F Legaspi St., Maybunga, Pasig
lg.com/ph

Lomography
Available at TeamManila stores in Powerplant Mall, TriNoma, SM Mall of Asia, Market! Market!, SM Aura, SM Manila, SM San Lazaro, Marquee Mall, Harbor Point, and authorized resellers
shop.lomography.com

Mango
Available at Mango stores in Abreeza, Alabang Town Center, Araneta Center, Ayala Center-Cebu, Ayala Center-Makati, Bonifacio High Street, Centrio, Glorietta 1, Eastwood, Fairview Terraces, Harbor Point, Lucky Chinatown, Marquee Mall, Newport City, Robinsons-Manila, Rockwell Center, Shangri-La Plaza, SM City BF Parañaque, SM City Cebu, SM City Clark, SM City Davao, SM Mall of Asia, and SM Megamall
shop.mango.com/PH/men

Mazda
Berjaya Auto Philippines, Inc.
(02) 551-8000
9/F Rufino Building, 6784 Ayala Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St., Legazpi Village, Makati
mazda.com.ph

Microsoft
Microsoft Philippines
(02) 860-8989
16/F Ayala Office Tower, 6750 Ayala Ave., Makati
microsoft.com/en-ph/

Midea
idea.com/global/

MINI
British United Automobiles, Inc.
(02) 856-6555
5th Ave. cor. 26th St., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig
mini.com.ph

MyPhone
My Solid Technologies & Devices Corporation
(02) 837-0195-98
2000 Solid City, Km. 16 East Service Road, Bicutan, Parañaque
myphone.com.ph

Nike
Nike Philippines
(02) 802-7235
10/F Marajo Tower, 312 26th St. West cor. 4th Ave., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig
nike.com/ph/en_gb

Nikon
ThinkDharma, Inc.
(02) 754-8061
TAO Corporate Center, 2291 Don Chino Roces Ave., Makati
nikon.ph

Oakley
Meera Enterprises, Inc.
(02) 890-0228
oakley.com/store

Olympus
olympus-global.com

Pentax
Ricoh
(02) 570-8413
19 Don A. Egea St. cor. Detroit St., Cubao, Quezon City
pentaxph.com

Plantronics
Plantronics Philippines
(02) 755-8892
7/F Ascott Makati, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati

Rapha
rapha.cc

Ricoh
Ricoh Philippines, Inc.
(02) 750-7382 to 89/750-7398 to 99
G/F OPPEN Bldg., 349 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati
ricoh.com.ph

Samsung
Available at all Samsung stores and authorized retailers
samsung.com/ph

Sharp
Sharp Philippines Corporation
(02) 842-7777
W Service Rd., Muntinlupa
sharp.ph

Sommerville Sports
sommervillesports.com

TomTom
tomtom.com

Xiaomi
8/F Don Pablo Bldg., 114 Amorsolo Ave., Makati
mi.com/ph/

Zeiss
zeiss.com

MOBILE PHONES + TABLETS

Speed

Buyer's Guide

SAVE OR SPLURGE,
THIS LIST IS ALL YOU'LL EVER NEED

126 UNDER P10,000

129 UNDER P20,000

132 P20,000 AND ABOVE

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Acer Liquid S1
P8,990
- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.5GHz quad-core Cortex-A7 processor
- 8MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 5.7" 1280 x 720 TFT capacitive display
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Wi-Fi hotspot, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB
- dual SIM/standby

Acer Liquid Z5
P5,990
- Android 4.2.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.3GHz dual-core Cortex-A7 processor
- 5MP rear, 0.3MP/VGA front camera
- 5" 480 x 854 TFT capacitive display
- 4GB built-in, microSD, 512MB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Wi-Fi hotspot, Bluetooth 3.0, microUSB
- dual SIM

ASUS fonepad 7
P6,995
- Android 4.3 Jelly Bean
- 1.2GHz dual-core Intel Atom Z2520
- 2MP rear, VGA front camera
- 7" 600 x 1024 capacitive touchscreen
- 4/8GB built-in, microSD up to 64GB, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi 802.11b/g/n, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB 2.0
- dual SIM/standby

ASUS MeMO Pad HD 7
P6,995 (8GB)
P8,995 (16GB)
- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.2GHz quad-core processor
- 5MP (16GB)/ 2MP (8GB) rear, 1.2 MP (16GB)/ 0.3MP (8GB) front camera
- 7" 1280 x 800 LED IPS display
- 8/16GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB

ASUS MeMO Pad 8
P9,995
- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.6GHz quad-core processor
- 5MP rear, 1.2MP front camera
- 8" 1280 x 800 IPS display
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Bluetooth 3.0, WLAN, microUSB

ASUS Zenfone 5
P6,495
- Android 4.3 Jelly Bean
- 1.6/2GHz dual-core processor
- 8MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 5" 1280 x 720 display
- 8/16GB built-in, microSD, 1/2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB

Cherry Mobile Alpha Play
P7,999
- Windows 8.1
- 1.33GHz quad-core Intel Atom Z3735D Processor
- 5MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 8" 720 x 1280 HD IPS display
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, microUSB

Cherry Mobile Infinix Pure XL
P6,999
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 1.4GHz octa-core MediaTek MT6592
- 13MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 5.5" 1280 x 720 HD IPS display
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, GPS, A-GPS

Cherry Mobile Omega AEON
P5,999
- Android 4.3 Jelly Bean with KitKat update
- 1.2GHz Qualcomm MSM8212 Snapdragon processor, Adreno 305 GPU
- 13MP rear, 5MP front camera
- 5" HD IPS display with OGS
- 4GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi and WiFi Hotspot, Bluetooth 4.0, 3G, microUSB

Cherry Mobile Omega Icon
P6,499
- Android 4.3 Jelly Bean
- 1.2GHz quad-core processor
- 13MP rear, 8MP front camera
- 5" HD IPS display
- 4GB built-in, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi and WiFi Hotspot, Bluetooth 4.0

Cherry Mobile Razor 2.0
P6,499
- Android 4.3 Jelly Bean
- 1.2GHz quad-core processor
- 12MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 4.7" HD IPS display
- 4GB built-in, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi and Wi-Fi Hotspot, Bluetooth 4.0, 3G
- dual SIM

Cherry Mobile Ultra
P8,999
- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean with KitKat update
- 1.2GHz quad-core Qualcomm MSM8926 processor
- 13MP rear, 5MP front camera
- 5" 1280 x 720 HD display
- 8GB built-in, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi and Wi-Fi Hotspot, Bluetooth, GPS

Cherry Mobile Superion Endeavor
P5,499
- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.2GHz quad-core processor
- 8MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 7" IPS display
- 4GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- HSPA+ Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, USB OTG

Cherry Mobile Superion Navigator
P6,999
- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.3GHz quad-core processor
- 5MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 8" IPS display
- 8GB built-in, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, GPS, 3G

Cherry Mobile Superion Odyssey
P7,499
- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.2GHz quad-core processor
- 5MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 7.85" 1024 x 768 IPS display
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, HDMI, USB

Cherry Mobile Superion Vector
P5,999
- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.3GHz quad-core processor
- 5MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 7" IPS display
- 16GB built-in, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0
- dual SIM

DTC GT17 Jupiter
P6,999
- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.3GHz quad-core MediaTek MT6582 processor
- 13MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 4.7" 960 x 540 HD display
- 4GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, 3G
- dual SIM/standby

Gionee GPad G5
P9,450
- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.5GHz hexa-core processor, PowerVR Series 5XT GPU
- 8MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 5.7" 720 x 1280 IPS LCD
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB 2.0
- dual SIM

Happy Mobile Aspire
P6,999
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 1.7GHz octa-core ARM Cortex-A7 Mali-450 MP4 processor
- 13MP rear, 8MP front camera
- 5.5" 720 x 1280 267ppi HD OGS IPS display
- 8GB built-in, microSD up to 32GB, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, microUSB 2.0, 2G/3G, USB OTG
- dual SIM/standby

Happy Mobile Oracle
P9,999
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 1.5GHz octa-core processor
- 13MP rear, 8MP front camera
- 5" HD OGS IPS display
- 8GB built-in, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, USB OTG

Huawei Honor 4C
P6,990
- Android 4.4.2 KitKat
- 1.2GHz octa-core HiSilicon Kirin 620 chipset
- 13MP rear, 5MP front camera
- 5" 720 x 1280 IPS LCD
- 8GB built-in, microSD up to 32GB, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Wi-Fi Direct, Bluetooth 4.0, GPS, microUSB 2.0
- dual SIM/standby

Huawei Honor 4X
P8,990
- Android 4.4.2 KitKat/Android 5.0 Lollipop
- 1.2GHz octa-core Cortex-A53
- 13MP rear, 5MP front camera
- 5.5" 720 x 1280 267ppi IPS LCD
- 8GB built-in, microSD up to 32GB, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Wi-Fi Direct, Bluetooth 4.0, GPS, microUSB 2.0
- dual SIM/standby

Lenovo A7000
P7,390
- Android 5.0 Lollipop
- 1.5GHz octa-core MediaTek MT6752M
- 8MP rear, 5MP front camera
- 5.5" 1280 x 720 IPS HD display
- 8GB built-in, microSD up to 32GB, 2GB RAM
- 3G, LTE, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, GPS, A-GPS
- dual SIM

Microsoft Lumia 535
P5,990
- Windows Phone 8.1 with Denim update
- 1.2GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 200 processor
- 5MP rear, 5MP front camera
- 5" 540 x 960 IPS qHD display with Corning Gorilla Glass 3
- 8GB built-in, microSD up to 128GB, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, GPS, A-GPS, GLONASS
- dual SIM

Microsoft Lumia 540
P7,990
- Windows Phone 8.1 with Denim update
- 1.2GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 200 processor
- 8MP rear, 5MP front camera
- 5" 1280 x 720 294ppi HD Laminated IPS LCD
- 8GB built-in, microSD up to 128GB, free 30GB OneDrive cloud storage, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, GPS, A-GPS, GLONASS
- dual SIM

MyPhone Infinity Lite
P7,999
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 1.4GHz octa-core MediaTek MT6592M processor
- 8MP rear with LED flash, 5MP front camera
- 4.7" 720 x 1280 HD IPS display
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, GPS, USB OTG
- dual SIM

MyPhone Rio 2
P5,499
- Android 5.0 Lollipop
- 1.3GHz quad-core processor
- 8MP rear with Sony Sensor, 5MP front camera
- 5" 720 x 1280 294ppi IPS HD Full Lamination display
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- 3G, HSPA+, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, GPS
- dual SIM/standby

OPPO Joy
P5,990
- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.3GHz dual-core processor
- 3MP rear, VGA front camera
- 4" WVGA display
- 4GB built-in, microSD, 512MB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi hotspot, DLNA, microUSB
- dual SIM

OPPO Neo 5
P7,990
- Android 4.4 KitKat with Color OS
- 1.3GHz quad-core MediaTek MT6582 processor
- 8MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 4.5" 480 x 854 FWVGA IPS LCD
- 8GB built-in, microSD up to 32GB, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, GPS, A-GPS

Samsung GALAXY S Duos 2
P7,990
- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.2GHz dual-core Cortex A9 processor
- 5MP rear, 0.3MP front camera
- 4" 480 x 800 TFT display
- 4GB built-in, microSD, 0.75GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, 2G, 3G, USB 2.0
- dual SIM

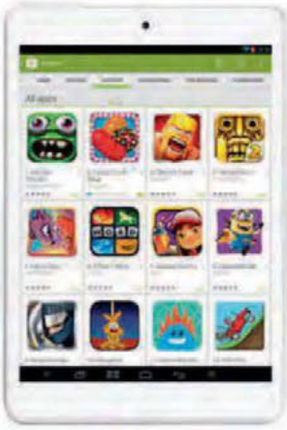
Samsung GALAXY Tab 3 Lite
P7,490
- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.2GHz dual-core processor
- 2MP rear camera
- 7" 1024 x 600 display
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB

Sony Xperia E1
P6,590 (single SIM)
P7,490 (dual SIM)
- Android 4.3 Jelly Bean
- 1.2GHz dual-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 200 processor
- 3MP rear camera
- 4" 480 x 800 TFT display
- 4GB built-in, microSD, 512MB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, USB 2.0

Starmobile Diamond S1
P8,990
- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.3GHz quad-core MediaTek processor
- 12MP rear, 3MP front camera
- 5" qHD LCD
- 4GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, 3.5G
- dual SIM/standby

Starmobile Diamond S2
P9,990
- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.3GHz quad-core MediaTek processor
- 12MP rear, 3MP front camera
- 6" qHD LCD
- 4GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, 3.5G
- dual SIM/standby

Starmobile Diamond S3
P8,990
- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.2GHz quad-core MediaTek processor
- 8MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 5.5" qHD LCD
- 4GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, 3.5G
- dual SIM/standby



Starmobile Engage 8 Quad
P6,990
- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1GHz quad-core ARM Cortex A7 processor
- 5MP rear, VGA front camera
- 7.85" capacitive IPS display
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi

Starmobile Engage 8 3G
P9,990
- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.2GHz quad-core MediaTek MT6589 processor
- 8MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 7.85" 1024 x 768 IPS capacitive display
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, 3G

Starmobile Engage 9i
P9,990
- Android 4.2.2 Jelly Bean
- 2GHz dual-core Intel Atom Z2580 processor
- 5MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 8.9" 1920 x 1200 IPS display
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, USB OTG

Starmobile Knight Vision
P9,990
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 1.3GHz quad-core ARM Cortex A7 MediaTek MT6582
- 13MP rear with OIS, 8MP front camera; 1080p @ 30fps
- 5.5" 720 x 1280 267ppi IPS multi-touch capacitive screen
- 16GB built-in, microSD up to 64GB, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, microUSB, Digital TV, GPS, A-GPS
- dual SIM/standby

Xiaomi Redmi 2
P5,999
- MIUI 6 based on Android 4.4 KitKat
- 1.2GHz 64-bit quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 410
- 8MP BSI rear, 2MP front camera
- 4.7" 720 x 1280 312ppi Sharp IPS display
- 8GB built-in, microSD up to 32GB, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi 802.11b/g/n, Bluetooth 4.0, USB OTG, GPS, 4G LTE
- dual SIM/standby

ZTE Grand X2
P5,280
- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.2GHz quad-core MediaTek MT6589 processor
- 5MP rear, VGA front camera
- 5" 960 x 540 display
- 4GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, 3G
- dual SIM

ZTE Grand X2 L
P6,980
- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.3GHz quad-core processor
- 8MP rear, VGA front camera
- 5.5" qHD IPS display
- 4GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, 3G
- dual SIM/standby

Acer Liquid Jade
P14,990
- Android 4.4.2 KitKat
- 1.3GHz quad-core ARM Cortex-A7 processor
- 13MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 5" 1280 x 720 IPS LCD
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Wi-Fi hotspot, Bluetooth, microUSB
- dual SIM

Acer Liquid E700
P10,990
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 1.2GHz quad-core ARM Cortex-A7 processor
- 8MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 5" 1280 x 720 IPS LCD
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Wi-Fi hotspot, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB, A-GPS
- triple SIM (microSIM)

Apple iPad mini 2 (Wi-Fi)
P15,490 (16GB)
P17,990 (32GB)
- iOS 8
- A7 chip with 64-bit architecture and M7 motion coprocessor
- 5MP rear, 1.2MP front camera
- 7.9" 2048 x 1536 LED-backlit Retina display
- 16/32GB built-in, 512MB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0

ASUS fonepad 8
P11,995
- Android 4.4.2 KitKat
- 1.3GHz quad-core Intel Atom Z3530
- 5MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 8" 800 x 1280 IPS LCD screen
- 8/16GB built-in, microSD up to 64GB, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi 802.11b/g/n, Bluetooth 4.0 A2DP, microUSB 2.0
- dual SIM

ASUS MeMO Pad 10
P13,995
- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.6GHz quad-core processor
- 2MP rear, 1.2MP front camera
- 10.1" 1280 x 800 LED IPS display
- 8GB/16GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Bluetooth 3.0, WLAN, microUSB

ASUS Zenfone 6
P11,995
- Android 4.3 Jelly Bean
- 2GHz dual-core processor
- 13MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 6" 1280 x 720 display
- 8/16/32GB built-in, microSD, 1/2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB

BlackBerry Z3
P10,990
- BlackBerry 10
- 1.2GHz dual-core Qualcomm MSM8230 processor
- 5MP rear, 1.1MP front camera
- 5" 540 x 960 capacitive display
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 1.5GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, 3G, HDMI, microUSB

Cherry Mobile Alpha Morph
P11,999
- Windows 8.1
- 1.33GHz quad-core Intel Atom Z3735D processor
- 2MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 10" 720 x 1280 HD IPS display
- 32GB built-in, microSD, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, USB OTG
- Keyboard dock

Cherry Mobile Cosmos Z2
P12,999
- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.7GHz octa-core MediaTek MT6592 processor, MALI 450MP GPU
- 18MP rear, 8MP front camera
- 5" IPS LCD
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0

Cherry Mobile Omega Infinity
P14,999
- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.7GHz octa-core MediaTek MT6592 processor
- 18MP rear, 8MP front camera
- 5.5" IPS LCD
- 32GB built-in, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, GPS, 3G/4G

Cherry Mobile Titan Pro
P10,999
- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.2GHz quad-core MediaTek MT689 processor, PowerVR SGX544 GPU
- 12MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 5" IPS LCD
- 4GB built-in, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi and Wi-Fi Hotspot, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB
- dual SIM

Gionee Elife S5.1
P12,499
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 1.2GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 400 processor
- 8MP rear, 5MP front camera
- 4.8" 720 x 1280 306ppi HD AMOLED display
- 16GB built-in, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi 802.11b/g/n, 3G HSPA+, 4G LTE, Bluetooth 4.0, GPS

Happy Mobile Prive
P11,999
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 1.7GHz octa-core processor
- 13MP rear, 8MP front camera; 1080p video recording
- 5.5" HD OGS IPS Display
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi Miracast, GPS
- dual SIM

HP Slate6 VoiceTab
P14,990
- Android 4.3 Jelly Bean
- 1.2GHz quad-core processor
- 5MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 6" 720 x 1280 IPS capacitive display
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi and Wi-Fi hotspot, Bluetooth 3.0, microUSB

Huawei Honor 6+
P17,990
- Android 4.4.2 KitKat
- 1.8GHz quad-core Cortex-A15 + 1.3GHz quad-core Cortex-A7
- 8MP rear, 8MP front camera camera; 1080p@30fps video
- 5.5" 1080 x 1920 IPS LCD
- 32GB built-in, microSD up to 128GB, 3GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Wi-Fi Direct, Bluetooth 4.0, GPS
- dual SIM/stand-by

Lenovo A8-50 Tablet
P10,499
- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.3GHz quad-core MediaTek MTK8121/ MTK8382 processor
- 5MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 8" 1280 x 800 HD display
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, 3G

Lenovo P70
P11,999
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 1.7GHz octa-core MediaTek MT6752
- 13MP AF rear, 5MP front camera
- 5" 1280 x 720 294ppi HD IPS display
- 16GB built-in, microSD up to 32GB, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi 801.11 b/g/n, Bluetooth 4.0, 4G LTE, GPA, A-GPS, OTG
- dual SIM/standby

Lenovo S860
P15,999
- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.3GHz quad-core MediaTek 6582 processor
- 8MP rear, 1.5MP front camera
- 5.3" 1280 x 720 IPS capacitive display
- 16GB built-in, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 3.0, microUSB
- dual SIM/standby

Lenovo S90
P13,999
- Android 4.4.4 KitKat with Vibe UI 2.0
- 1.2GHz 64-bit quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 410
- 13MP PureCel rear, 8MP front camera
- 5" 1280 x 720 294ppi Super AMOLED HD display
- 32GB built-in, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, GPC, A-GPS, NFC, 4G LTE
- dual SIM/standby

Lenovo Vibe X2
P18,999
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 2GHz octa-core MediaTek MT6595M True8Core processor
- 13MP rear, 5MP front camera; 1080p video recording
- 5" 1920 x 1200 IPS LCD
- 32GB built-in, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB 2.0, 4G LTE, HSPA+
- optional dual SIM/standby (microSIM)

Lenovo Yoga Tablet 2 8"
P13,999
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 1.33GHz quad-core Intel Atom Z3745 processor
- 8MP rear, 1.6MP HD front camera
- 8" 1920 x 1200 IPS LED LCD Touch
- 16GB built-in, microSD up to 64GB, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi 802.11a/b/g/n, microUSB, OTG, Bluetooth 4.0

Lenovo Yoga Tablet 2 10"
P19,999
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 1.86GHz quad-core Intel Atom Z3745 processor
- 8MP rear, 1.6MP HD front camera
- 10.1" 1920 x 1200 IPS LCD Touch
- 16GB built-in, microSD up to 64GB, 2GB RAM
- LTE, Wi-Fi 802.11a/b/g/n, Wi-Fi hotspot, microUSB, OTG, Bluetooth 4.0

LG G3 Beat
P13,990
- Android 4.4.2 KitKat
- 1.2GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 400 processor
- 8MP rear, 1.3MP front camera;
- 5" 720 x 1280 IPS capacitive display
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB 2.0, 3G

LG G3 Stylus
P16,990
- Android 4.4.2 KitKat
- 1.3GHz quad-core Cortex-A7 MediaTek MT6582 processor
- 13MP rear, 1.3MP front camera; 1080p video recording
- 5.5" 540 x 960 IPS LCD
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB 2.0
- dual SIM/standby (microSIM)
- stylus

LG G Pad 8.3
P16,990
- Android 4.2.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.7GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 600 processor
- 5MP rear, 1.3MP front camera
- 8.3" 1920 x 1200 Full HD IPS display
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, HDMI, microUSB

Microsoft Lumia 640 XL
P11,990
- Windows Phone 8.1 with Denim update
- 1.2GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 400 processor
- 13MP AF rear, 5MP front camera
- 5.7" 1280 x 720 294ppi HD IPS LCD
- 8GB built-in, microSD up to 128GB, free 30GB OneDrive cloud storage, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, HDMI, microUSB

MyPhone Infinity
P12,999
- Android 4.2.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.7GHz octa-core Mediatek MT6592 processor
- 16MP rear, 8MP front camera
- 5" Full HD IPS display; Corning Gorilla Glass 2
- 16GB built-in, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, USB OTG
- dual SIM

OPPO Find 5 Mini
P13,990
- Color OS (based on Android 4.2.2 Jelly Bean)
- 1.5GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon processor
- 8MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 4.7" 540 x 960 IPS display
- 4GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 3.0, microUSB

OPPO R1x
P15,990
- Android 4.4 KitKat with Color OS
- 1.5GHz Snapdragon 615 octa-core
- 13MP rear, 5MP front camera
- 5" 720 x 1280 HD IPS display
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 2GB RAM
- 3G, LTE, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, GPS, A-GPS, GLONASS
- dual SIM

OPPO Yoyo
P10,990
- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.3GHz quad-core processor
- 5MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 4.7" IPS display
- 4GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 2.1, GPS, microUSB 2.0
- HotKnot: screen-to-screen transmission

Samsung GALAXY Grand 2
P13,990
- Android 4.3 Jelly Bean
- 1.2GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 400 processor
- 8MP rear, 1.9MP front camera
- 5.25" 1280 x 720 TFT display
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 1.5GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, 3G, USB 2.0, microUSB
- dual SIM

Samsung GALAXY Mega 5.8
P18,990
- Android 4.2.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.4GHz dual-core processor
- 8MP rear, 1.9MP front camera; 1080p video recording
- 5.8" 540 x 960 TFT display
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 1.5GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, microUSB
- optional dual SIM (micro SIM)

Samsung GALAXY S4 Zoom
P14,990
- Android 4.2.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.9GHz quad-core Cortex-A9 processor, Mali-400 GPU
- 16MP rear, 1.9MP front camera; 1080p video recording
- 4.3" 540 x 960 Super AMOLED display
- 18GB built-in, microSD, 512MB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, NFC, microUSB

Sony Xperia E3
P10,490
- Android 4.4.2 KitKat
- 1.2GHz quad-core Qualcomm MSM8926-2 Snapdragon 400 processor
- 5MP rear, VGA front camera; 1080p video recording
- 4.5" IPS capacitive display
- 4GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB, 4G
- microSIM

Sony Xperia M2
P14,190
- Android 4.3 Jelly Bean
- 1.2GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 400 processor
- 8MP rear, VGA front camera
- 4.8" 540 x 960 TFT capacitive display
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, DLNA, NFC, microUSB

Sony Xperia M2 Aqua
P16,490
- Android 4.4.2 KitKat
- 1.2GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon processor
- 8MP rear, VGA front camera; 1080p video recording
- 4.8" IPS capacitive LCD
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- NFC, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB, 4G LTE
- microSIM

Sony Xperia T2 Ultra
P18,990
- Android 4.3 Jelly Bean
- 1.4GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 400 processor
- 13MP rear, 1.1MP front camera
- 6" 720 x 1280 IPS LCD
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, DLNA, NFC, LTE, microUSB

Starmobile Diamond V7
P11,990
- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.2GHz quad-core MediaTek MT6589 processor
- 18MP rear, 8MP front camera
- 5.7" 720 x 1280 IPS display
- 4GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, dual 3G
- dual SIM/standby

Starmobile Diamond X1
P13,990
- Android 4.2.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.7GHz octa-core MediaTek processor
- 18MP rear, 8MP front camera
- 6" HD IPS capacitive display
- 8GB built-in, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, 3G
- dual standby

Starmobile ENGAGE 10 Pro
P11,999
- Windows 8.1
- 1.8GHz quad-core Intel Atom Z3735F Baytrail-T processor, Intel HD graphics 7th-gen
- 10.1" 1280 x 800 16:10 150ppi LCD
- 32GB built-in, microSD up to 64GB, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, microUSB, USB 2.0, mini HDMI

Starmobile Knight X
P15,990
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 2GHz octa-core MediaTek MT6595M processor
- 13MP Sony Exmor RS rear, 5MP front camera
- 5.5" 1920 x 1080 IPS LCD
- 32GB built-in, 3GB RAM
- microUSB 2.0, USB OTG, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, LTE, 3G
- dual SIM

Xiaomi Mi 3
P10,599
- MIUI V5 (based on Android 4.3)
- 2.3GHz Qualcomm Snapdragon 800 processor
- 13MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 5" 1920 x 1080 Full HD display
- 16GB, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, NFC

Xiaomi Mi Pad
P10,990
- MIUI based on Android 4.4 KitKat
- 2.2GHz quad-core NVIDIA Tegra K1 processor
- 8MP rear, 5MP front camera
- 7.9" 1536 x 2048 IPS display
- 16GB, microSD up to 128GB, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, USB OTG

ZTE Vec
P11,980
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- Octa-core processor
- 13MP rear, 5MP front camera; 1080p video
- 5" HD multi-touch display
- 8GB built-in, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, 3G, GPS, microUSB
- dual SIM

ZTE Vec 4G
P12,980
- Android 4.4.2 KitKat
- 1.2GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 400 MSM8926
- 8MP rear, 1MP front camera
- 5" 720x1280 IPS LCD
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, GPS, USB 2.0, microUSB, 4G LTE

Apple iPad Air
Wi-Fi: P20,490 (16GB); P22,990 (32GB)
Wi-Fi + cellular: P26,990 (16GB); P29,490 (32GB)
- iOS 8
- A7 chip with 64-bit architecture and M7 motion processor
- 5MP rear, 1.2MP front camera
- 9.7" 2048 x 1536 LED-backlit Retina display
- 16/32/64/128GB built-in, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, LTE

Apple iPad mini 2 (Wi-Fi + cellular)
P21,990 (16GB)
P24,490 (32GB)
- iOS 8
- A7 chip with 64-bit architecture and M7 motion processor
- 5MP rear, 1.2MP front camera
- 7.9" 2048 x 1536 LED-backlit Retina display
- 16/32/64/128GB built-in, 512MB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, LTE

Apple iPhone 5c
P22,490
- iOS 7
- 1.3GHz dual-core A7 chip with 64-bit architecture, M7 motion co-processor
- 8MP rear, 1.2MP front camera; 1080p video recording
- 4" 1136 x 640 widescreen multi-touch Retina display
- 8GB built-in, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, microUSB

Apple iPhone 5s
P30,490 (16GB)
P33,490 (32GB)
- iOS 7
- 1.3GHz dual-core A7 chip with 64-bit architecture, M7 motion co-processor
- 8MP with 1.5μ pixels rear, 1.2MP front camera; 1080p video recording
- 4" 1136 x 640 widescreen multi-touch Retina display
- 16/32GB built-in, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, microUSB
- Fingerprint sensor

Apple iPhone 6
P35,990 (16GB)
P41,990 (64GB)
P47,990 (128GB)
- iOS 8
- A8 chip with 64-bit architecture and M8 motion coprocessor
- 8MP rear, 1.2MP front camera
- 4.7" 1334 x 750 326ppi LED-backlit Retina display
- 16/64/128GB built-in, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, NFC
- Fingerprint sensor
- nano SIM

Apple iPhone 6 Plus
P41,990 (16GB)
P47,990 (64GB)
P53,990 (128GB)
- iOS 8
- A8 chip with 64-bit architecture and M8 motion coprocessor
- 8MP rear, 1.2MP front camera
- 5.5" 1920 x 1080 401ppi LED-backlit Retina display
- 16/64/128GB built-in, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, NFC
- Fingerprint sensor
- nano SIM

ASUS Padfone Infinity
P37,990 (32GB)
P41,990 (64GB)
- Android 4.1 Jelly Bean
- 1.7GHz quad-core Qualcomm APQ8064T Snapdragon 600 processor, Adreno 320 GPU
- 13MP rear, 2MP front camera; 1080p video recording
- 5" 1920 × 1080 Super IPS display
- 32/64GB built-in, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, NFC

ASUS Transformer Book T100
P23,995
- Windows 8.1
- 1.3GHz quad-core Intel Atom Z3740 processor
- 1.2MP front camera
- 10.1" 1366 x 768 display
- 32/64GB built-in, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 3.0, microUSB

BlackBerry Classic
P20,990
- BlackBerry OS 10.3.1
- 1.5GHz dual-core Qualcomm MSM 8960
- 8MP rear, 2MP front camera; 1080p @ 30fps HD video recording
- 3.5" 720 x 720 294dpi HD touch screen
- 16GB built-in, microSD up to 128GB, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, NFC, Miracast, microUSB 2.0

BlackBerry Passport
P35,790
- BlackBerry 10.3
- 2.2GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 801 processor
- 13MP w/ OIS and LED flash rear, 2MP front camera
- 4.5" 1440 x 1440 453ppi IPS display
- 32GB built-in, microSD up to 128GB, 3GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Wi-Fi Direct, Bluetooth 4.0, A2DP, NFC, Miracast, USB 2.0

BlackBerry Z10
P29,990
- BlackBerry 10 upgradable to v.10.1
- 1.5GHz dual-core processor
- 8MP rear, 2MP front camera; 1080p video recording
- 4.2" 768 x 1280 capacitive display
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, 3G, NFC, microUSB

Gionee Elife E7
P24,500
- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 2.2GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 800 processor
- 16MP rear, 8MP front camera
- 5.5" 1080 x 1920 Full HD IPS display
- 32GB built-in, 3GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, 3G, microUSB

Gionee Elife S5.5
P21,999
- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.7GHz octa-core Cortex-A7 processor
- 13MP rear, 5MP front camera
- 5" 1080 x 1920 Super AMOLED capacitive display
- 16GB built-in, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Wi-Fi Direct, Wi-Fi hotspot, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB, USB OTG

HTC One
P32,990
- Android 4.1.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.7GHz quad-core Krait 300 CPU Qualcomm Snapdragon 600 processor, Adreno 320 GPU
- 4MP Ultrapixel rear, 2.1MP front camera; 1080p video recording with HDR
- 4.7" 1920 x 1080 Super LCD 3
- 32/64GB built-in, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, NFC, microUSB

HTC One max
P37,790
- Android 4.3 Jelly Bean
- 1.7GHz quad-core Krait 300 CPU Qualcomm Snapdragon 600 processor, Adreno 320 GPU
- 4MP Ultrapixel rear, 2.1MP front camera; 1080p video recording with HDR
- 5.9" 1920 x 1080 Super LCD 3
- 32GB built-in, microSD, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, NFC, microUSB

HTC One mini
P25,390
- Android 4.2.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.4GHz dual-core Krait 200 CPU Qualcomm Snapdragon 400 processor, Adreno 305 GPU
- 4MP rear, 1.6MP front camera; 1080p video recording with HDR
- 4.3" 720 x 1280 Super LCD 2
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, NFC, microUSB

Huawei Ascend Mate 7
P27,890
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 1.8GHz Cortex-A15 + quadcore 1.3GHz Cortex-A7 HiSilicon Kirin 925 processor
- 13MP rear, 5MP front camera; 1080p video recording
- 6" 1080 x 1920 IPS LCD
- 16GB built-in, microSD up to 128GB, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, NFC, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB 2.0

Huawei Ascend P7
P20,990
- Android 4.4.2 KitKat with Huawei Emotion UI 2.3
- 1.8GHz quad-core Hisilicon Kirin 910T
- 13MP rear with flash, 8MP front camera
- 5" 1920x1080 Full HD INCELL touch-sensitive screen
- 16GB built-in, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB 2.0

Lenovo Miix 2
P21,999
- Windows 8.1
- 1.8GHz quad-core Intel Atom processor
- 5MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 8" 1280 x 800 HD IPS display
- 64GB built-in, microSD, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB

Lenovo ThinkPad 8
P25,490 (Wi-Fi only)
P30,000 (3G)
- Windows 8.1
- 2.4GHz quad-core Intel Z3770 processor
- 8MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 8.3" 1200 x 1920 multi-touch IPS display
- 64/128GB built-in, microSD, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, 3G, microHDMI, USB 3.0
- microSIM (WWAN version)

Lenovo Vibe Z2 Pro
P29,999
- Android 4.4.2 KitKat
- 2.5GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 801 processor
- 16MP rear, 5MP front camera
- 6" 1440 x 2560 IPS capacitive LCD
- 32GB built-in, 3GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, microUSB, GPS, 3G
- dual SIM (microSIM)

Lenovo Yoga Tablet 2 Pro
P33,999
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 1.33GHz quad-core Intel Atom Z3745 processor
- 8MP rear, 1.6MP HD front camera
- 13.3" 2560 x 1440 IPS LED LCD Touch
- 32GB built-in, microSD up to 64GB, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, MiMo, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB

LG G Pro 2
P32,990
- Android 4.2.2 Jelly Bean
- 2.26GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 800 processor
- 13MP rear, 2.1MP front camera
- 5.9" 1080 x 1920 True IPS display
- 16/32 built-in, microSD, 3GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, NFC, microUSB

LG G3
P29,990 (16GB)
P33,990 (32GB)
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 2.5GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 801 chipset, Adreno 330 GPU
- 13MP rear, 2.1MP front camera
- 5.5" 1440 x 2560 True HD display
- 16/32GB built-in, microSD, 2/3GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Wi-Fi Direct, DLNA, Wi-Fi hotspot, Bluetooth 4.0

LG Nexus 5
P22,500
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 2.2GHz quad-core Krait 400 processor
- 8MP rear with OIS, 1.3MP front camera; 1080p video recording
- 5" 1920 x 1080 multi-touch IPS display
- 16GB built-in, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, 4G LTE, microUSB

Microsoft Surface Pro 2
P59,999 (128GB)
P74,999 (256GB)
- Windows 8.1 Pro
- 4th-gen Intel Core i5 processor
- 720p HD rear and front camera
- 10.6" 1920 x 1080 Full HD LCD
- 64/128/256/512GB built-in, microSD, 4/8GB RAM,
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, USB 3.0

OPPO Find 7
P25,990
- Android 4.3 Jelly Bean
- 2.5GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 801 processor
- 13MP rear, 5MP front camera
- 5.5" 1440 x 2560 IPS display
- 32GB built-in, microSD, 3GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, NFC, microUSB

OPPO Find 7a
P22,990
- Android 4.3 Jelly Bean
- 2.3GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 801 processor
- 13MP rear, 5MP front camera
- 5.5" 1080 x 1920 display
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 2GB RAM

OPPO N3
P29,990
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 2.3GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 801
- 16MP motorized rotating camera
- 5.5" 1080 x 1920 Full HD IPS LCD
- 32GB built-in, microSD up to 128GB, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, GPS, A-GPS, Bluetooth 4.0, LTE
- dual SIM

OPPO R5
P21,990
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 1.7GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 615
- 13MP rear, 5MP front camera
- 5.2" 1080 x 1920 423 ppi AMOLED display
- 32GB built-in, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB 2.0, A-GPS, GPS
- microSIM

Samsung GALAXY Alpha
P29,990
- Android 4.4.4 KitKat
- 1.8GHz quad-core Cortex-A15 + 1.3GHz quad-core Cortex-A7 processors
- 12MP rear, 2.1MP front camera; 2160p video recording
- 4.7" 1280 x 720 HD Super AMOLED display
- 32GB built-in, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, DLNA, Wi-Fi Hotspot, LTE, microUSB
- nanoSIM

Samsung GALAXY Mega 6.3
P23,990
- Android 4.2.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.7GHz dual-core Krait processor, Adreno 305 GPU
- 8MP rear, 1.9MP front camera; 1080p video recording
- 6.3" 1280 x 720 display
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 1.5GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, NFC, microUSB

Samsung GALAXY Note 4
P37,990
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 2.7GHz quad-core Krait 450, 1.9GHz octa-core (1.9GHz quad-core Cortex-A53 + 1.3GHz quad-core Cortex-A57) processor
- 16MP rear, 3.7MP front camera
- 5.7" 2560 x 1440 Quad HD Super AMOLED
- 32GB built-in, microSD up to 128GB, 3GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.1, USB 2.0
- S Pen

Samsung GALAXY Note 8.0
P21,990
- Android 4.1.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.6GHz quad-core processor
- 5MP rear, 1.3MP front camera
- 8" 1280 x 800 TFT display
- 16/32GB built-in, microSD, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, DLNA, 2G, 3G, USB 2.0, microUSB

Samsung GALAXY Note 10.1 2014 Edition
P25,990
- Android support
- 1.9GHz Big core quad + 1.3GHz Little core quad processor
- 8MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 10.1" 2560 x 1600 LCD
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 3GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, DLNA, microUSB

Samsung GALAXY Note EDGE
P33,990
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 2.7GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 805 processor
- 16MP rear, 3.7MP front camera
- 5.6" 2560 x 1600 quad HD+ Super AMOLED
- 32GB built-in, microSD up to 128GB, 3GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.1, USB 2.0, IR LED
- S Pen

Samsung GALAXY NotePRO 12.2
P39,990
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 1.9GHz + 1.3GHz quad-core processor
- 8MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 12.2" 2560 x 1600 LCD
- 32/64GB built-in, microSD, 3GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, ANT+, USB 3.0

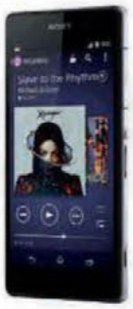
Samsung GALAXY S5
P34,990 (16GB)
- Android 4.4.2 Kitkat
- 2.5GHz quad-core processor
- 16MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 5.1" 1920 x 1080 FHD Super AMOLED display
- 16/32GB built-in, microSD, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, NFC, USB 3.0

Samsung GALAXY S6
P35,990 (32GB)
P41,990 (64GB)
- Android 5.0 Lollipop
- 1.5GHz quad-core Cortex-A53 + 2.1GHz quad-core Cortex-A57 processor
- 16MP rear with OIS, 5MP front camera
- 5.1" 2560 x 1440 577ppi Super AMOLED display
- 32/64GB built-in, 3GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, LTE, Bluetooth 4.1, NFC, microUSB 2.0, Samsung Pay

Samsung GALAXY S6 EDGE
P41,990 (32GB)
P47,990 (64GB)
- Android 5.0 Lollipop
- 1.5GHz quad-core Cortex-A53 + 2.1GHz quad-core Cortex-A57 processor
- 16MP rear with OIS, 5MP front camera
- 5.1" 2560 x 1440 577ppi Super AMOLED dual edge display
- 32/64GB built-in, 3GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, LTE, Bluetooth 4.1, NFC, microUSB 2.0, Samsung Pay

Samsung GALAXY Tab S 8.4
P24,990
- Android 4.4.2 KitKat
- 1.9GHz + 1.3GHz quad-core processor
- 8MP rear, 2.1MP front camera
- 8.4" 2560 x 1600 LCD
- 16/32GB built-in, microSD, 3GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Wi-Fi Direct, DLNA, Wi-Fi hotspot, Bluetooth 4.0 A2DP, microUSB 2.0

Samsung GALAXY Tab S 10.5
P29,990
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 2.3GHz quad-core Snapdragon 800 processor
- 8MP rear, 2.1MP front camera
- 10.5" 2560 x 1600 LCD
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 3GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, GPS, 3G



Sony Xperia Z2
P31,990
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 2.3GHz quad-core Qualcomm MSM8974AB processor
- 20.7MP rear, 2.2MP front camera
- 5.2" 1920 x 1080 Full HD TRILUMINOS display
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 3GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, NFC, USB 2.0, microUSB
- waterproof, dustproof

Sony Xperia Z2 Tablet
P33,190
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 2.3GHz quad-core Qualcomm Adreno 330 processor
- 8.1MP rear, 2.2MP front camera
- 10.1" 1920 x 1200 display
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 3GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, DLNA, NFC, microUSB
- waterproof, dustproof

Sony Xperia Z3
P34,990
- Android 4.4.4 KitKat
- 2.5GHz quad-core Qualcomm MSM8974AC Snapdragon 801 processor
- 20.7MP rear, 2.2MP front camera; 2160p video recording
- 5.2" 1080 x 1920 IPS capacitive LCD
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 3GB RAM
- NFC, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB, 4G LTE
- nanoSIM

Sony Xperia Z3 Compact
P29,490
- Android 4.4.4 KitKat
- 2.5GHz quad-core Qualcomm MSM8974AC Snapdragon 801 processor
- 20.7MP rear, 2.2MP front camera; 2160p video recording
- 4.6" 720 x 1280 IPS capacitive LCD
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB, 4G LTE
- nanoSIM

Sony Xperia Z3 Tablet Compact
P31,990
- Android 4.4.2 KitKat
- 2.5GHz quad-core Qualcomm MSM8974AB Snapdragon 801 processor
- 8.1MP rear, 2.2MP front camera; 1080p video recording
- 8" 1200 x 1920 TFT LCD
- 16/32GB built-in, microSD, 3GB RAM
- NFC, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB, 4G LTE
- nanoSIM

Vertu Constellation
P287,000
- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.7GHz dual-core Qualcomm Snapdragon processor, Adreno 320 GPU
- 13MP rear, 1.3MP front camera; 1080p video recording
- 4.3" 720 x 1280 display
- 32GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, 3G, microUSB

JAY TABLANTE

ON COSPLAY PHOTOGRAPHY

It was one of those random conversations in the car with my wife Rachel that got me thinking about the kind of photography I ended up doing.

Of course we all start with the regular kind of photography, but the more time I spent in this craft/passion/profession, the more I veered toward a rather unconventional way of taking pictures.

Rachel, aside from being my better half, is the perfect sounding board for my ideas. She's not really into comics, animé, or anything deeply involved with pop culture. She's a casual onlooker who enjoys an *Avengers* movie here and there, minus the obsession of the dedicated fan (such as yours truly). It's the non-fan questions she asks that got me thinking how to express my fandom to a larger audience beyond fellow geeks.

Here's a little revelation: I was totally unaware of the term "cosplay photography" until people started labeling our work as such. This was months into the production process, as we were working on the images for our exhibit *Pop Nostalgia* back in 2008. Personally, I just wanted to take pictures of superheroes. The cosplay label just came after the fact. Whether it was a cosplayer, model, or actor in front of the camera, it didn't matter to me as long as the imagery I wanted was achieved.

I've always loved drawing. Unfortunately, it didn't love me back as much as I wanted to. From summer art classes to a full-scale drawing board dad got me, I was trying (in vain) to make something more than glorified stick figures; I believed I could be creative. It's that same part of my bull-headedness that finally got me to seek refuge behind a camera. A camera for a pencil: my creative journey started from there.

My love for cosplay photography (the term stuck with us since then) was born out of two creative obsessions: photography and pop culture. Being the geek, I naturally sought more knowledge about these two concepts that I initially felt were unconnected, and mulled on how to create a good intersection between them. However, the more I studied, the more I saw a pre-existing, Siamese-twin connection. Pop culture and photography were creatively joined at the hip, and it became just a matter of connecting the dots for myself.

Cosplay photography sat in the cusp of two schools of thought: pop culture (content) and photography (execution). It wasn't enough for me to just take pictures; I wanted to discover what made the characters tick, and the techniques used to make them come to life. I had to go to the source beyond the photography and costuming. After that, I could then run off with a team on the other side of the creative spectrum and see what we could do with the images we produced.

I became obsessed with the methods because I wanted to solve a personal creative problem. It was this journey of getting my ideas across—from point A to point B—where I discovered the importance of self-awareness in the thought process. The more you knew about your imagination, the more you're able to tweak your methods and refine things that didn't work. It's this constant cycle of trial and error plus the various bouts with frustration I went through that created a remotely feasible method of channeling creativity like a firehose.

Picking the brains of the artists and writers in the comic book, animé, and pop culture realms gives us the ability to put their characters in the right perspective. As much as the cosplayers give life to intellectual properties we are fans of, if it weren't for the creative types, we wouldn't have these characters to begin with.

I sought to make our work a tribute to those whose imagination has inspired a multitude of people like me into contributing to their worlds. I think, as imagineers whom they have inspired, my fellow industry practitioners and I owe them a great deal of gratitude. I don't think they're celebrated enough, save for a few superstar artists and writers.

It is a creative responsibility for us as fans who generate content to give back into the creative pool for others to appreciate and grow from.

--

An excerpt from Jay Tablante's Geekology 2.0: Techniques in Cosplay Photography, available at National Bookstore.

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